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MARCH 2003

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**Editorial** 01273 566 222  
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(from North America replace first 0 with: 011 44)

**345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ**

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**UK** ..... £21.50 (1st class) £18 (2nd class)

**USA/Canada** ..... \$60 US (air) \$40 US (sea)

**Mainland Europe/Eire** ..... £25/\*50 (air only)

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**A Quality Communications magazine**

#156

MARCH 2003

## Inside this Issue...

**COVER:** The film isn't due until summer, but we just couldn't wait to get in first with the lowdown on the latest depiction of old Jade Jaws. Especially as we got hold of some stunning images of the computer-generated star. Full story on page 20.

## News

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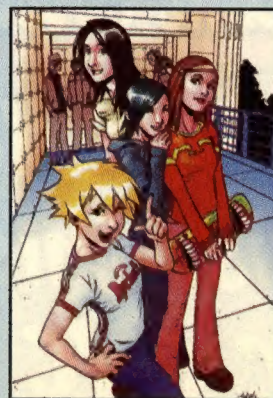
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# Sez Dez

**Editorial**  
**Dez Skinn**



THEY'RE not exactly unsung heroes. In fact, some readers list them as their "least favourite section" in competition coupons. But I think they do our industry proud. "And who are they?", you chorus. Why, advertisers, I reply.

Advertisers are more just than a way to keep our cover price down. Unlike the annoyance they become in Sunday magazines, where you have to leaf through endless pages to find any editorial content, to a magazine like **CI** they represent as much a part of the news as actual editorial does. But more than that, they act as ambassadors for our industry.

Slick, well-produced ads speak volumes for the advertiser. If a magazine is full of shabby ads, all badly designed with clashing typefaces or poor images, they not only hurt the advertisers by yielding a poor response. They also damage the whole look of the magazine that printed the ads, hurting its sales too. But, far more importantly, they reflect the industry that they are a part of. Bizarrely, a lack of ads can look better for a magazine's status than stacks of poorly produced ones.

One thing I've noticed over the 13 years we've been producing **CI** is that, while hopefully the editorial content has evolved, there can be no doubt that the quality of advertising certainly has.

Amazingly enough, 85% of our full page advertisers this month are in full colour. It's a far cry from our early days of typewritten and Letraset ones, and I actually get a buzz out of publishing them. While US comics magazines shrink as advertisers fall by the wayside, we've continued to grow and evolve.

Considering that the bulk of our coverage is centred on US titles, it never ceases to amaze me that our advertisers, primarily retailers rather than producers, do a far better job of promoting themselves than their American equivalents.

Perhaps even more amazing is the little-heralded fact that across all 155 issues and various specials, we've never once sold a single ad. There's no hard sell, no discount deals, no telesales team on commission, struggling to meet targets.

Every advertiser is with us because they choose to be, because it works for them. And it makes our industry shine.

Maybe they are unsung heroes after all.

**Comics International** editor Dez Skinn's career in the industry spans over 30 years. Titles he has created include **Doctor Who Weekly**, **House of Hammer**, **Hulk Comic**, **Starburst** and **Warrior**. Ex-editorial director of Marvel UK - where his Stan Lee-coined **Sez Dez** column had a monthly audience of over 500,000 - he has also edited titles including **Buster**, **Conan**, **MAD**, **Star Wars Weekly**, **2000 AD Presents**, **Miracleman** and **Spider-Man** and won over 20 Eagle Awards. A contributor to several lifestyle magazines, his co-created **V for Vendetta** is under option to Warner Bros.





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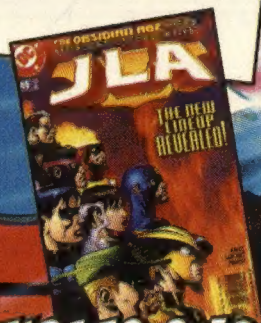
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# Tsunami unleashes wave of manga-style Marvel titles



Above: Udon Studios' cover art for the \$2.99 first issue of *Sentinel*, which launches Marvel's Tsunami line. Top right: Skottie Young's cover art for the \$2.50 *Human Torch* #1.

*Line of Japanese-influenced comics offers different approach to heroes in effort to expand potential audience*

THERE is no doubting the US comics industry's belief in the popularity of manga, which has influenced many leading creators. Despite this Japanese approach to comics having little impact on sales, Marvel is now attempting to reach out to new readers with a line of comics that take their lead from manga.

Grouped under the *Tsunami* umbrella, the titles are all set in the Marvel Universe. For some that is just a background while for others, such as *Mystique* and *Human Torch*, it is an intrinsic part of the series.

The *Tsunami* comics are edited by CB Cebulski, whose first Marvel work was on the *Mangaverse* event. According to the company's president of publishing and new media, Bill Jemas, he "really understands" the art of Japanese storytelling and knows the artists and writers in that community. "He has reached out in a very major way to bring those people in. CB's also recruited US artists who have gravitated to that storytelling type of style."

## Angst and love

The first wave of six titles are, said Jemas, all written by people who understand the storytelling style. "They are all accessible to new readers. There's a lot more human



interaction. There's real died-in-the-wool love stories. There's female heroines and a lot of teenage angst and love. That's what these books are all about."

The line – promoted with a 25 cent first issue of the \$2.25 *Namor* [see below] – debuts with *Sentinel* by Sean McKeever (writer) and Udon Studios (pencillers). The \$2.99 April 2 shipping title is to be followed by:

● **Human Torch** – Karl Kesel (w), Skottie Young (p); April 9, \$2.50.

● **Runaways** – Brian K Vaughan (w), Adrian Alphona (p); April 16, \$2.50.

● **Venom** – \$2.25; Daniel Way (w), Francisco Herrera (p); April 23, \$2.25.

● **Mystique** – Vaughan (w); Jorge Lucas (p); April 23, \$2.99.

## Young Sub-Mariner finds romance in 1930s

**NAMOR** is the lead title of the *Tsunami* line [see main story] and Marvel is promoting the \$2.25 series with a 25 cent first issue.

The comic is written by Bill Jemas, Marvel's chief operating officer, and *Skeleton Key*'s Andi Watson. Drawn by Mizuki Sakakibara, it features one of the oldest denizens of the Marvel Universe.

Asked what inspired the new series, Jemas told *CI*, "In this case, it was 50% inspiration and 50% desperation.

"Universal Studios recently acquired the rights to the *Namor* movie and are

in rapid development," he explained. "So, the time is right for Marvel to reinvigorate interest in the character."

## Tiptoe through tuna

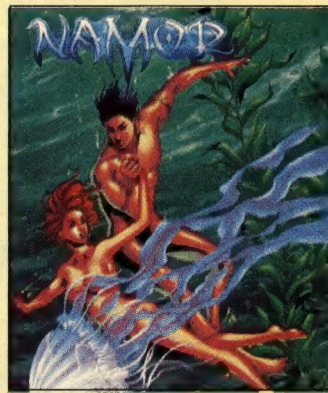
"Unfortunately the pitches were not really working," Jemas continued. "They either hauled Namor out of Atlantis and plopped him down on land to live like a land liver – like one of those *Behind the Music* VH1 shows. Or they jam him back into the old time Namor comic stories where he has to tiptoe through the tuna to avoid disturbing Marvel

'continuity'. That's the desperation part. Namor is the Prince of Atlantis, but we couldn't seem to capture the magic that made the stories really work.

"The inspiration came from the female lead, Sandra," he said, "and a vision in my mind's eye of this brooding underwater Prince falling for an incredibly light and lively young woman."

The story is set in the 1930's when Namor was a teenager. "It is all about all-out love, but not the romantic, soul mate, kissy-face kind of love.

*Namor* #1, priced \$0.25, ships on April 16. Above: Mizuki Sakakibara's cover art *Namor* #2, priced \$2.25, ships on April 30. for the \$2.25 second issue of *Namor*.





# Hellboy publisher ups its horror ante

*Supernatural influence reveals itself in more demonic and diabolical titles from Dark Horse*

ENCOURAGED by the continuing success of Mike Mignola's *Hellboy* and the demand for spin-offs, Dark Horse is adding several more horror-based comics to its roster of non-licensed titles.

## Historical fiction

Lined up to follow the recently-announced *Hellboy: Weird Tales* anthology and the four-issue *Devil's Footprints* is *Blackburne Covenant*. Another four-partner it is drawn by Italian *Birds of Prey: Revolution* artist Stefano Raffaele and written by Fabian (*Thunderbolts*) Nicieza, who told *CI* it is the story of an author who writes a hugely popular historical novel.

Unfortunately he then learns he has revealed a secret that has been covered up for centuries. And there

are those who want to know how he uncovered it.

## Monster hunter

In May, *30 Days of Night* creator/writer Steve Niles again teams up with the comic's artist, Ben Templesmith, to bring another of his creations back from Ideas + Designs Works to Dark Horse, where it debuted in *Dark Horse Presents* #101 [1995].

The five-part *Criminal Macabre: A Cal McDonald Mystery* begins when Niles' monster hunting private eye realises different races of monsters are gathering to form an unholy alliance.

Also set for May is the first of four bimonthly one-shots, follow-ups to last year's three-issue *Hellboy* spin-off, *B.P.R.D.: Hollow Earth*.



Art by Ben Templesmith for Dark Horse's horror line promo poster (above) and for the cover to the first of the five issues of *Criminal Macabre: A Cal McDonald Mystery* (below).

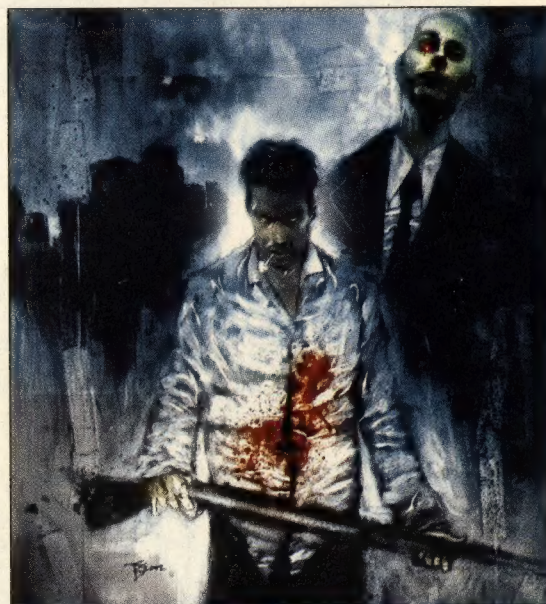
Drawn by Powers' Michael Avon Oeming, *The Soul of Venice* is written by the artist's *Bastard Samurai* collaborator Miles Gunter, who told *CI* his *Hellboy* spin-off story begins when the members of the Bureau for Paranormal Research and Defense are sent to investigate a disturbance in Italy. "Readers can rest assured that this issue will have all the classic Mignola elements: horror, humour, action, beauty, weirdness and lots of black."

Scheduled for July is Brian Augustyn and Guy Davis's *Dark Waters*. The remaining *B.P.R.D.* specials are by Geoff Johns and Scott Kolins and Joe Harris and Adam Pollina. Currently untitled, they are lined up to ship in September and November.

## Zombie gangsters

A second character coming back under the Dark Horse umbrella is a muscle-bound monster fighter whose adventures are written and drawn by Eric Powell.

The writer/artist featured the Goon in five black and white issues and one colour special self-published under his Albatross Exploding Funny Books label after introducing the character in



## Dark Horse Presents #157 [2000].

In June Dark Horse relaunched *The Goon*, which Powell described to *CI* a dark comedy about a gangster fighting a rival gang of zombies. The company is also planning a trade paperback reprinting the earlier Goon stories.

## War of the Worlds

While *Criminal Macabre* and *The Goon* are continuations of series from other publishers, *Scarlet Traces* is effectively a reprint but of material not previously published in America.

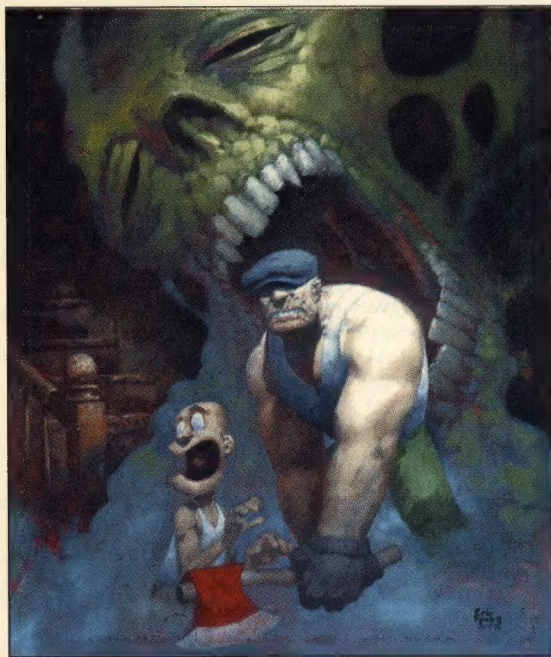
Commissioned and begun by Sheffield's now-defunct Cool Beans World website, Ian Edginton and D'Israeli's *Scarlet Traces* was finally completed by Rebellion, which published it last year in *Judge Dredd Magazine* volume 4 #16-18.

Set 10 years after events chronicled by H G Wells in *War of the Worlds*, it tells of a society that uses newly acquired alien technology without being aware of the price that will have to be paid.

Dark Horse is releasing *Scarlet Traces* as an 88-page hardcover. Originally designed to be displayed on a computer screen, the strip has been given a make-over by D'Israeli for an edition Edginton described to *CI* as the director's cut.

Dark Horse has another hardcover lined up to ship in September. A 96-page horror anthology, *Hauntings* is to include contributions from Paul Chadwick, Evan Dorkin, Mike Mignola and P Craig Russell among others.

It is followed in October by *Corpus Monstrum*, a trade paperback collecting Gary Gianni's back-ups from *Hellboy* as well as his 1999 *Monster Men* one-shot.



Above: *The Goon* art by Eric Powell. Below: Stefano Raffaele's cover art for the first issue of the *Blackburne Covenant* four-partner.





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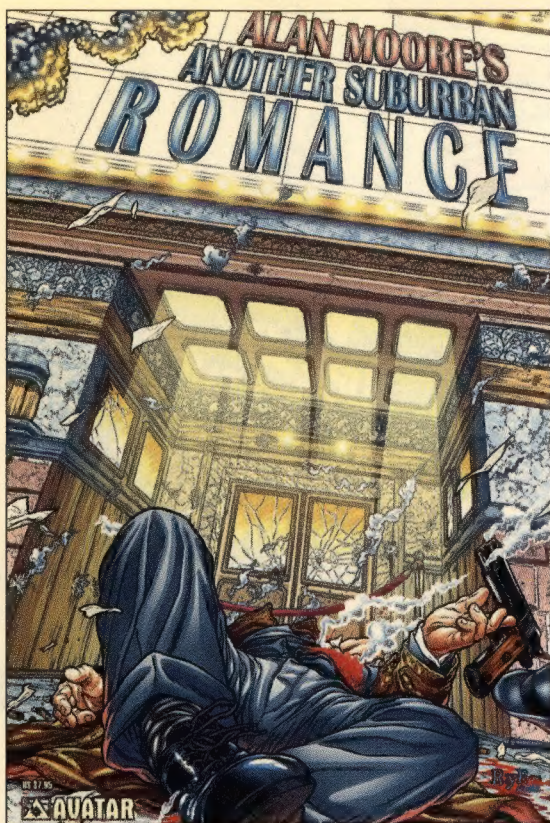
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AVATAR Press's April-shipping *Another Suburban Romance* is a 64-pager comprising of three tales from a play Alan (Watchmen) Moore began scripting in 1976. Adapted by *The Courtyard's* Antony Johnston, the black and white stories are illustrated by Alan Moore's *Magic Words* contributor Juan José Ryp, who provides the covers to both the \$7.95 softcover edition (above) and the \$17.95 hardcover, which is limited to 1,250 copies.

## Movie ogre in comics debut

*Groo* writer Mark Evanier adapts short theme park movie then takes Shrek and companions off on new adventures in Dark Horse four-parter

IN A change of direction, Dark Horse Comics has acquired a movie license that contrasts with its regular fare of horror and science fiction spin-offs from film and TV.

Likely to appeal to a younger audience than its *Star Wars*, *Aliens* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* readers, *Shrek* is written by Mark Evanier – best-known for his collaborations with Sergio Aragonés on *Groo* – and illustrated by the *Star Wars: Jango Fett – Open Seasons* team of Ramon F Bachs and Raul Fernandez.

Bridging the gap between the first movie and the sequel that DreamWorks has set for a 2004 release, the Dark Horse mini-series stars the swamp-dwelling ogre from 2001's CGI fantasy blockbuster in further adventures with Donkey and Princess Fiona.

"There are four different stories in the four issues," said Evanier. "The first is an adaptation of a short film that's being produced for

exhibition at theme parks. It involved Shrek and Fiona heading off on their honeymoon, with Donkey tagging along and doing donkey-like things, and Lord Farquaad's

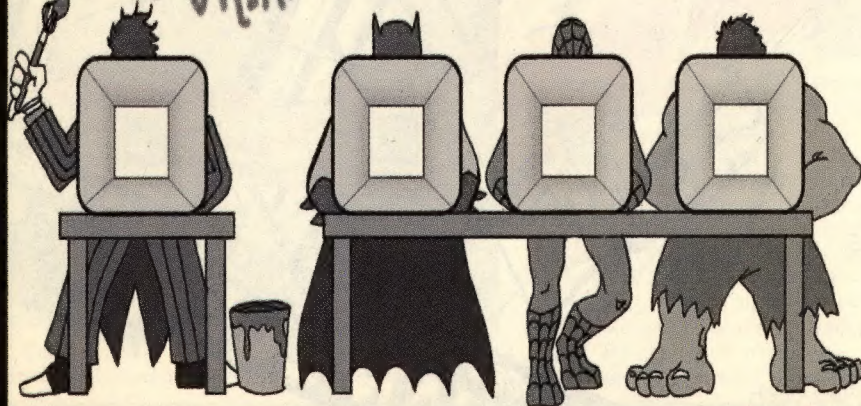
ghost giving all a lot of grief. After that issue, we get into original tales of Shrek and his odd neighbours."

*Shrek* #1, priced \$2.99, ships on April 30.



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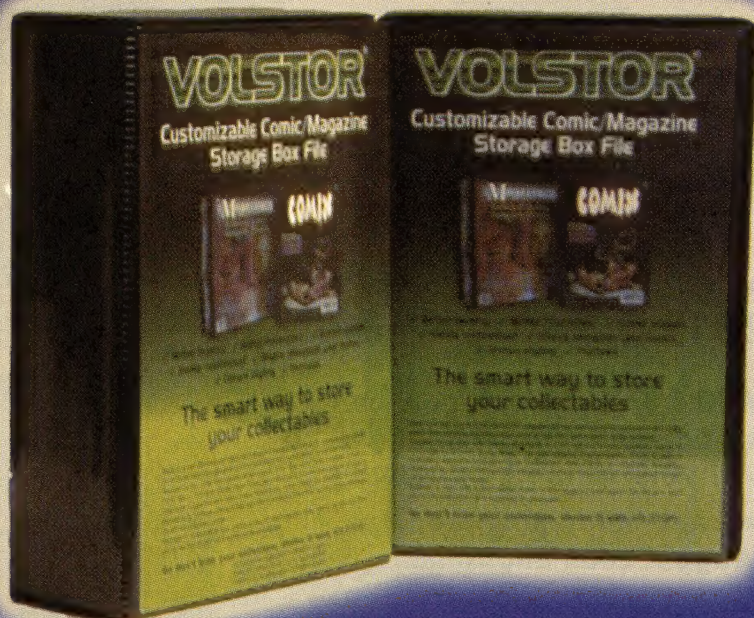


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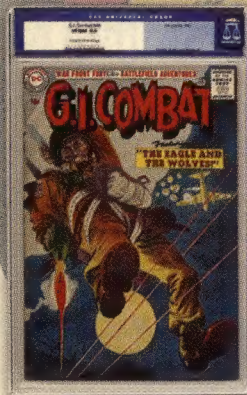
Consignments are now being accepted for our May and August 2003 auctions.



X-Men #1  
CGC VF/NM 9.0



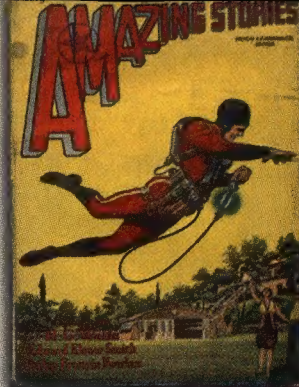
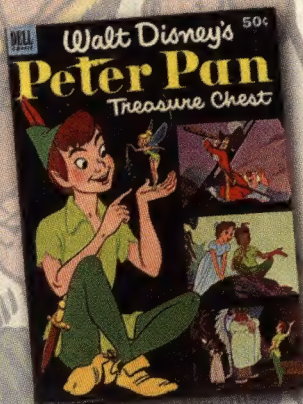
Fantastic Four #2  
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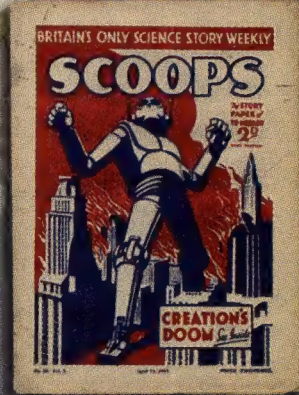
G.I. Combat #44  
CGC VF/NM 9.0



Marvel Spotlight #2  
CGC NM+ 9.6



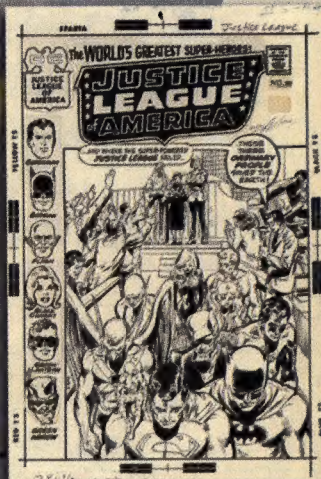
Amazing Stories V.3 #5  
(1st Buck Rogers)



Scoops #1-20  
(1934)



Super Summer Holiday  
Annual #1 (1960)



Original Art - JLA #88 cover  
(Neal Adams)

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## US release for "Lord of the Flies" manga

*Lobo co-creator Keith Giffen to translate Japanese comic so infamous that movie adaptation created controversy equal to Clockwork Orange*

IN A nation still haunted by the Columbine school shootings, its leading manga trade paperback publisher is courting controversy by releasing a story in which schoolchildren are armed, abandoned on an island and ordered to kill each other.

TokyoPop, who dominate BookScan's graphic novel Top 50 – are to publish the English-language version of **Battle Royale**, a black and white comic written by Koushun Takami and drawn by Masayuki Taguchi. Based on the author's 1999 novel of the same name, it is

described by the publisher as a modern day **Lord of the Flies**, with elements of *Survivor* and other such reality TV shows grafted on.

Adapted to the big screen in 2000 by director Kinji Fukasaku, the *Battle Royale* movie generated controversy in Japan on a similar scale to the 1971 UK release of Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*.

Translating the manga – which is to be published in eight 192-page volumes in the standard Japanese right-to-left format by the Los Angeles-based TokyoPop –

is Keith Giffen. Referring to the violent nature of the story, the ex-**Suicide Squad** writer remarked, "I thought I knew the limits to which 'extremes' could be taken – I was wrong."

● Koushun Takami's novel – his first – sold over 800,000 copies when it was published in Japan.

In February, an English language edition of the 504-page book is being published by Viz Communications. Priced \$15.95, it is only available in North America. **Battle Royale** volume 1, priced \$9.99, ships on May 13.

## Scooter Girl rides into Oni mini

CHYNNA Clugston-Major is embarking on her first creator-owned series not to be set in her **Blue Monday** milieu.

Described as a romantic comedy-of-errors by Oni Press, **Scooter Girl** is the story of Ashton Archer, the coolest guy at his school. Well-known on the hipster scene in his town, Ash is pretty much the guy other guys wish they could grow up to be – suave, smart, and successful with the ladies.

Then he encounters Margaret, a beautiful young girl on a scooter. Smitten by this new student, he fails to



win her heart although he loses his social standing in the process.

He is left with just one aim: to get back on top with Margaret at his side.

"I wanted to do something that was completely funny and completely dark from start to finish, that took you from point A to point B and did so with reckless abandon. It's Rumiko Takahashi, Buster Keaton, '60s mod culture, old English drama, slapstick, teen sex comedy, black comedy—everything I love smashed into one gooey ball," proclaimed Clugston-Major.

The first of **Scooter Girl**'s six black and white issues ships on May 7, priced \$2.95.

## Share the Risk offers change after 30 years

BOWING to retailer demand, DC is taking the first tentative steps towards abandoning the precept upon which the direct market was founded.

Beginning in April, the industry's longest established publisher is to initiate a programme of limited returns it calls *Share the Risk*. The first time comic shops have not been forced to buy firm sale since Phil Seuling set up the current system in 1972, it allows retailers to return up to 20% of their initial orders for the first issues of **Beware the Creeper**, **Mucha Lucha** and **Sweatshop** as well as for **Green Arrow** #23.

Currently restricted to outlets supplied by Diamond Comics Distributors' US

network, *Share the Risk* will shortly be expanded to cover accounts serviced through Diamond's UK warehouse.

### Marvel responds

Asked by CI whether Marvel intended to implement a similar policy to aid retailers, president of publishing and new media Bill Jemas said he felt launching such titles as **Namor** with a \$0.25 first issue achieved the same end.

Challenged that this only meant shops had to sell more copies to achieve the same profit, his response was to suggest shipping the second – normal price – issue in the same month would alleviate any such shortfall.

## Gus: New kid on Marvel's block

FORMER **Deadpool** writer Gail Simone is to offer a new perspective on the Marvel Universe through the eyes of a young superhero fan.

She told CI, "Gus Beezer is a manic and over-enthusiastic but otherwise normal kid with a *passion* for comics and superheroes. The twist is, that because he actually lives in the Marvel Universe, he has a better than fair shot of actually meeting his heroes."

Beezer debuts simultaneously in three \$2.99 one-shots which, says Simone, are an attempt to address the lack of all-ages material on the market. "Our goal was to make a comic that you could



share with non-comics readers, in the way you could loan out a *Peanuts* or *Calvin and Hobbes* collection. The tone is very much in the classic style of many 'kid' comic strips, but there's an extra level of enjoyment for fans, who are familiar with the Marvel Universe and its denizens.

"Each issue also contains a special back-up supposedly written and drawn by Gus. It features his original characters Marvel Kid and Marvel Dog," she added.

The three **Marvelous Adventures of Gus Beezer** specials – one each starring the Hulk, Spider-Man and the X-Men – hit the shops on March 26. They are drawn by animator Jason Lethcoe, the creator of *Zoom's Academy for the Super-Gifted*, an online strip also published by Astonish Comics.





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# Ben Dunn makes his Image debut

Marvel's Mangaverse creator teams up with British writer for post-apocalyptic six-parter

ALTHOUGH *Ninja High School* creator Ben Dunn is the head of Antarctic Press, he has elected to launch his latest project at Image.

Dunn told CI he felt *The Agents* would gain more exposure through the California-based publisher than his own company. A six-issue mini, it is his first work published by Image.

Working with Dunn — who spearheaded Marvel's *Mangaverse* event — is English writer Kevin Gunstone. He told CI the six-part project began with Dunn expressing a desire to draw a series featuring the sort of characters seen in '60s cult TV shows and films.

## Nuclear attacks

*The Agents* is set on a parallel Earth where, 30 years ago, Washington and Moscow had been wiped from the map by nuclear attacks launched by Professor Daedalus, a master scientific villain.

Now Daedalus has resurfaced, professing to be reformed and offering the world the bounty of



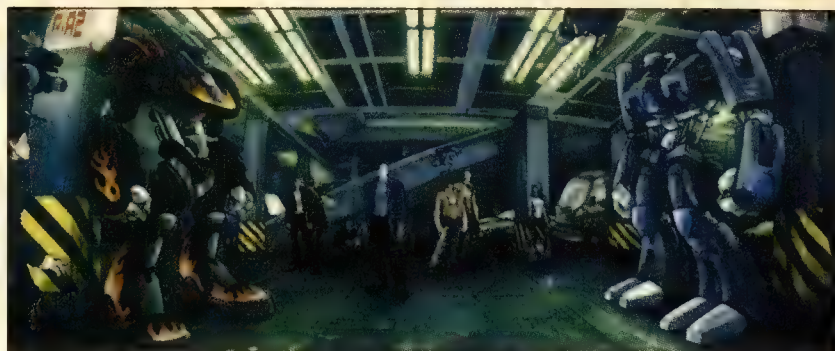
his last three decades of scientific research.

## Ageing superspy

But *The Agency* — a UK-based world-wide protectorate created in the aftermath of the nuclear war — wants to know the truth. It puts ageing former super-spy Nigel Cord on his trail, despite him professing to stop the professor 30 years earlier.

Gerry Anderson-like characters in the series include the mature upper class Lady Pippa and her faithful chauffeur, Burgess, former child prodigy and scientific genius Mike 70 and Haiku, the former sidekick to the legendary superhero Red Bee.

*The Agents* #1, priced \$2.95, ships on April 30.



# Japanese influence four new Image titles

IMAGE has declared April to be *manga month* even though the four titles it is launching as the thrust of the event are not Japanese comics. Rather, indicating the increasing influence of the source material, they are emulations produced by American writers and artists.

Publisher Jim Valentino told CI there is little doubt about the appeal of manga. Describing it as the style of choice for an entire generation, he said it cuts across all age and gender barriers and appeals to people who do not otherwise read comics.

## Punk and hip-hop

Asked if he felt manga was just a fashion or the way forward, he responded, "Does it have to be an either/or? I think just like punk and hip-hop, manga is an alternative, not a replacement. And I believe that just like those two forms of music it's here to stay."

Explaining his reasons for taking on the four titles, Valentino said they were "interesting stories well executed covering a wide



Above: The cover to the first 48-page issue of *Soul of the Samurai*; art by Will Dixon.



Above: Jose Torres' cover art for Image's *Heirs of Eternity* #1. Top: *Rotogin: Junkbotz* promo art by J Korim.

range of styles and genres beyond the doe-eyed waifs that the uninitiated associate with manga.

"I pride myself on the fact that Image has been able to champion as wide a variety of styles and genres as we can, these books only add to that," he continued.

## Crying Freeman

Kevin Gunstone and Ben Dunn's *The Agents* [see left] plus Jay Lee and J Korim's *Rotogin: Junkbotz* are very much in the tradition of other American manga-influenced comics. But *Heirs of Eternity* by Jose Torres, Jae Tsai and Jim Royal and Will Dixon's bimonthly *Soul of the Samurai* are not instantly recognisable as being in the style of Japanese

comics. Valentino agrees, saying "Manga isn't just *Pokemon* or *Sailor Moon*, *Gundam Wing* or *Love Hina*, it's all of those and more.

"To my eyes, *Heirs of Eternity* falls more in line with *Blade of the Immortal* or *Crying Freeman*, whereas *Soul of the Samurai* is more like *Lone Wolf and Cub* in its illustrative style," he continued. "All of these styles are manga.

"We have to bear in mind that manga encompasses a wide range of styles and genres. As do these books, each being totally different one from the other," he stated.

*Heirs of Eternity* and the black and white *Soul of the Samurai* both run to four issues while *Rotogin: Junkbotz* is an eight-parter. All three are \$2.95 titles.



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# DC opens Sweatshop

PETER Bagge is set to move even further into the mainstream spotlight with his first major project for DC.

The cartoonist is to follow up on *The Megalomaniacal Spider-Man*, his *Startling Stories* one-shot for Marvel,

with a project that is somewhat closer to *Hate!*, the Fantagraphics title for which he is best-known.

Bagge told CI that *Sweatshop* is the story of a dysfunctional family transplanted into an office setting.

To keep the ongoing series on a monthly schedule some of Bagge's stories are to be drawn by others working from his breakdowns. Among those lined up to contribute are *'Mazing Man'*'s Stephen DeStefano and *Hellboy Junior*'s Bill Wray.

*Sweatshop*'s usual setting is Mel Bowling's studio. Bagge remarked, "It's very much like a family, with Mel as 'dad' and his sister Millie as 'mom.' She serves as his office and business manager, and is very much his 'enabler' and peacemaker between everyone in the studio.

"There are three other regular staffers/cast members, as well as a fourth employee who doesn't appear quite as often," he explained. "That fourth character, a gag-writer named Elliot, is somewhat saner than the rest, and serves as a stand-in for the reader in that he's the only one who can see through the dysfunction that prevails in the Sweatshop, and it's for that reason that I don't make him a regular."

"He has to keep his distance or he'll lose his mind too," Bagge concluded.

*Sweatshop* #1, priced \$2.95, ships on April 23.



Above: Peter Bagge's cover art for DC Comics' *Sweatshop* #1.

## Free Enterprise producer preps first comic/movie title

MINDFIRE Entertainment is about to buck the trend by moving from film production into comics publishing.

While the company responsible for *Free Enterprise* – a 1999 spoof of *Star Trek* – and 2000's *The Specials*, described as post-modern satire of the superhero genre, is to continue developing adaptations of such comics properties as *Vampirella* and *Alley Cat* for the screen, it is establishing Mindfire Comics to bring its own creations into print.

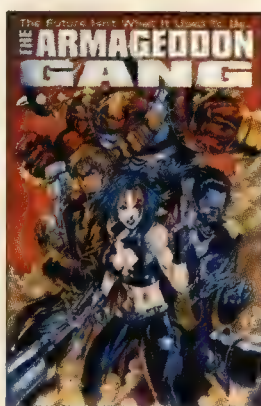
*The Armageddon Gang* is lined up to be Mindfire's maiden title. Written by *Free Enterprise* co-scripter Mark A Altman, the futuristic SF series is being developed simultaneously as the basis for a movie franchise.

Described as guns for hire, the gang is led by a weapons

master trying to put his criminal past behind him. Its members include an alien telepath, a sexy genetically engineered assassin, a deadly female humanoid chameleon, a registered vampire who feeds off artificial humans and the female engineer who designed the *Odyssey*, their shape-changing prototype spacecraft.

They are brought together by a wealthy industrialist who wants them to investigate an uprising on Rigel, a planet where his corporation manufactures artificial humans. "Conviction and immorality clash as humans, homegrown and artificial, plus aliens and vampires attempt to work together," explained Altman.

Currently unscheduled, *The Armageddon Gang* is illustrated by Scott Christian Sava, who produced Marvel's computer-generated 2002



Above: The cover to the first issue of *Mindfire Comics*' launch title, *The Armageddon Gang*; art by Scott Christian Sava.

four-parter, *Spider-Man: Quality of Life*.

● Mindfire has two further titles in the pipeline: *Free Enterprise: The Comic* and *Red Menace*.



## Marvel encourages peaceful solutions

PEACEMAKERS are the inspiration for a Marvel three-parter that seeks to offer an alternative to the militaristic and jingoistic reactions that followed the 9-11 attacks on New York and Washington.

The anthology – entitled *411* – is to feature both fact and fiction. Among the contributors are such comics creators as writers Chuck Austen, Bruce Jones, Mark Millar and Brian K Vaughan and artists Leonardo Manco, Frank Quitely, Sean Phillips and Phil Winslade. The mini will also include work by anti-nuclear activist and

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Helen Caldicott and political cartoonist David Rees as well as others from outside the industry.

● After featuring everyday heroes in three miniseries launched in the wake of 9-11, Marvel is to continue chronicling their lives in an ongoing series. Written by Chuck Austen, *The Call* is pencilled by Patrick Olliffe.

Shown above is Gabriel Del'Otto's cover for the first issue.

*411* #1, priced \$3.50, ships on April 9. *The Call* #1, priced \$2.25, ships on April 2.

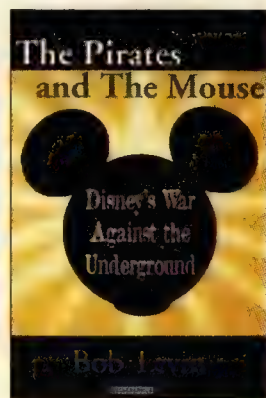
## FBI uncovers Air Pirates

FANTAGRAPHICS Books Inc.'s *The Pirates and the Mouse* is an account of one of the most contentious events in the history of the US underground comix scene.

Subtitled *Disney's War against the Underground*, attorney Bob Levin's 270-page hardcover recounts how *Odd Bodkins* creator Dan O'Neill and the rest of the cartoonists in the *Air Pirates* collective were sued by the Disney Corporation. The mammoth lawsuit – which raged for 10 years – resulted from the two issues of *Air Pirates Funnies* [1971], in which Mickey Mouse and friends indulged in some very

un-Disneylike behaviour.

Fully illustrated in black and white, the 6x9" volume ships in May, priced \$24.



**2003: AFTER A YEAR IN THE MAKING • AND IT'S QUALITY TESTED ...**



# No more TwoMorrows for Comic Book Artist

AFTER 25 issues with TwoMorrows Publishing, editor Jon B Cooke is moving his highly-acclaimed **Comic Book Artist** magazine to Top Shelf Productions.

Cooke is planning a slight change of direction for his publication, which is to be relaunched in June. In the future, **Comic Book Artist** is to focus more on individual creators than on specific companies or themes as it has in the past. It will also inaugurate news and reviews sections.

The move to Top Shelf brings with it a slight increase in cover price from \$6.95 to \$7.50 but this reflects the introduction of interior colour into what was previously a totally black and white magazine.

"I decided to move because Top Shelf, in true Mafioso fashion, made me an offer I couldn't refuse," said Cooke, who intends to publish 10 issues and one or two specials a year through his new publisher.



Above: The cover to the sold out **Comic Book Artist** #21, the first issue of the black and white TwoMorrows magazine to be reprinted since 1998's #1; Adam Hughes art. The \$6.95 second printing is available now.



Above: The cover to **Spidey and the Mini Marvels**, Bullpen Bits cartoonist Chris Giarusso's follow up to his **Giant Size Mini Marvels**. Unlike the 2001 one-shot – which contained new material alongside reprints of the writer/artist's strips from Marvel's Bullpen Bulletins page – this \$3.50 special is to feature two new stories – one starring Spider-Man, the other Wolverine. It ships in March.

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Return of the Jedi, Harry Potter & Time Bandits  
Paul Blake - 'Greedo' Star Wars, New Hope  
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"I realized 10 years ago that fans who couldn't get to conventions could get their signed comics from someone like me," recalls Dynamic Forces President Nick Barrucci. "So I thought I'd create a one-stop shop, and from there, we just grew and grew." In addition to signed and authenticated comics, Dynamic Forces now offers Lithographs, Statues, Trading Cards, Wall Scrolls and more! One of the birthday party specials released just a few weeks ago was the **Exclusive Darkness #1 Prelude** by Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee. This marks the first of several exclusive comics released this year by Dynamic Forces, set to include **Tomb Raider** and **Witchblade** and featuring such creative talents as Geoff Johns, Mark Texiera, Mark Millar and Jae Lee!



# CrossGen secrets revealed

TONY Bedard is to introduce a team of evil sigil-bearers in a spin-off from his CrossGen series, **Negation**.

The writer told CI, "The Sigil-Bearers are the heroes of the CrossGen Universe. Since the Negation Universe is sort of the evil mirror

image of the CGU, it seemed natural to do a story in which there is an evil version of the sigil and we explore what it does to the beings marked by its power."

Going into further detail on **Mark of Charon**, Bedard continued, "Since Charon is

the god of Negation Space, he's the one who comes up with the idea. But he needs an experienced Sigil-Bearer to lead his new team and teach them how to deal with this new power in their lives. So Charon picks one of the heroes from the **Negation** series and puts him in charge of the evil team.

"It's a situation that's ripe with conflict," he added. "At its heart, this story is also an examination of the concepts of good and evil, and what they might mean in a universe where everything's chaotic and mixed up. Naturally, there's a lot of things blowing up, too!"

Bedard also said that the five-parter, which is drawn by **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**'s Joe Bennett and **Sam and Twitch**'s Jonathan Glapion, reveals some important continuity points that affect the entire CGU.

"This is a fast-paced sci-fi adventure with metaphysical overtones," explained the writer. "It's very much along the lines of the regular **Negation** series, which moves at breakneck speed and where something important happens in every issue."

**Mark of Charon** #1, priced \$2.95, ships on March 26.



Above: Joe Bennett and Jonathan Glapion's cover art for the first issue of CG Entertainment's **Mark of Charon** five-parter.

# Wolverine gets isolated

**INCREDIBLE Hulk** writer Bruce Jones, is to follow up his **Hulk/Wolverine: 6 Hours** with another four-parter, one which features Marvel's most popular mutant in a solo adventure.

Pencilled by Jorge (**Black Panther**) Lucas, **Wolverine: X-Isle** strands the X-Man on a desert island, with no idea where he is.

"Battling a super villain or monster has its own kind of tension – but the idea of being cut off completely, of utter and complete loneliness, that could be almost unbearable, perhaps worse than the worst enemy, because in essence, you're fighting yourself," Jones explained to CI. "And the topper is, Wolverine wouldn't remember how he got there. Only that whoever did this must hate him pretty thoroughly."

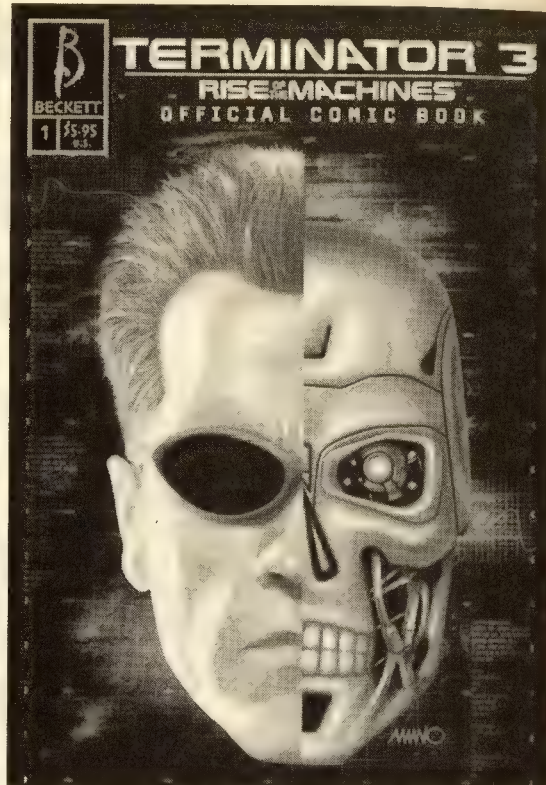
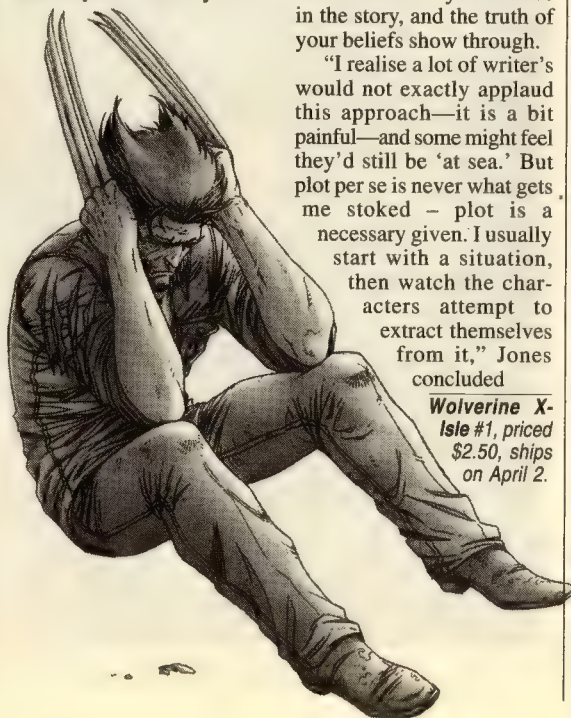
Discussing his initial thoughts on his story idea, Jones, who said he really wanted to get inside Logan's head and explore something new about the character,

confessed. "I got excited because I wanted to know the beginning and end more than anyone. Once you're

excited, you know you're going to write with passion, and little imperfections can be ironed out – you believe in the story, and the truth of your beliefs show through.

"I realise a lot of writer's would not exactly applaud this approach—it is a bit painful—and some might feel they'd still be 'at sea.' But plot per se is never what gets me stoked – plot is a necessary given. I usually start with a situation, then watch the characters attempt to extract themselves from it," Jones concluded

**Wolverine X-Isle** #1, priced \$2.50, ships on April 2.



BECKETT Publications has acquired the Terminator license. The magazine publisher plans to launch its first comic – a **Terminator 3** based ongoing series – in June to tie-in with the premiere of **T3: Rise of the Machines**, which again stars Arnold Schwarzenegger.

# SAF ventures solo

SLOVENIA-based Strip Art Features is to become a US publishing entity in its own right after almost two years of a co-publishing deal that saw its graphic novels issued in America by Dark Horse under the Venture imprint.

A three-month publishing gap is being left after its last Venture title – the recent **Four Killers: The Lonesome Rider** by Claudio Nizzi and Joe Kubert. But then production is being stepped up as SAF Comics is launched in May with three albums.

Yves H and Hermann's 56-page **Manhattan Beach, 1957** and Carlos Trillo and Juan Bobillo's second book of **Bird**, entitled **The Mask**, are hardbacks while the 92-page **Cain** by Ricardo Barreiro and Eduardo Risso is a black and white softcover.

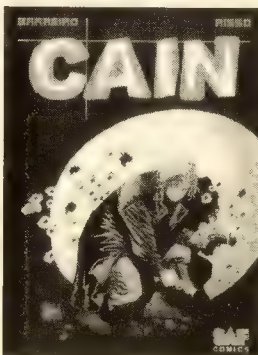


Lined up for June are two more hardcovers – Sergio Bleda's 48-page **Sleep, Little Girl** and the 64-page **Avatar Book 1: A Look into the Abyss** by Juan Miguel Aguilera and Rafael Fonteriz – plus another black and white softcover, Trillo and Risso's **Boy Vampire Book 1: The Resurrection**.

All SAF books are the traditional European size of 8 3/4 x 11 3/4".

Titles scheduled for later in the year include another Trillo/Bobillo collaboration, Hermann's **Wild Bill is Dead** and the first volume in the **True Memoirs of Docteur Mystère** series by Alfredo Castelli and Lucio Filippucci.

**Manhattan Beach, 1957** and **Bird Book 2: The Mask**, priced \$12.95/£9.50 each and **Cain**, priced \$9.95/£7.50, ship in May.





## Hulk: The 12c tour



**Issue #102-** Cautionary visuals depicting the dangers of falling asleep on the sunbed. Volume two of *The Incredible Hulk* starts here, carrying on the numbering from *Tales to Astonish*.



**Issue #331-** Todd McFarlane's second issue as penciller under Peter David scripts. The reappearance of the grey Hulk at sundown pushes back the green Hulk to the recesses of Banner's mind.



**Issue #377-** Landmark issue where all three personalities of Banner's tortured psyche are merged together by Doc Samson. End product Banner Hulk becomes a greater monster than ever.



**Issue #418-** Rick Jones, introduced in and partly responsible for the creation of the Hulk, finally gets hitched to short term love Mario. Hankies out, please.

# Hulk movie radiates good vibes

Ang Lee angles on Hulkmania destroying all big screen competition at the box office this summer. Following last month's *Daredevil* movie feature, *CI* focuses on Marvel's latest big screen spin-off

Special movie feature by  
**GARY ELIOT**

THE HULK is about to rampage across cinema screens after a staggering 12 years in development. Movie execs needed a bigger, badder Hulk than the dated Lou Ferrigno TV depiction and the rapid advancements of computer generated imagery (CGI) was seen as the only solution.

With a budget estimated at \$100 million to achieve this, *Hulk* has been propelled into the must-see category, as the biggest hyped block-buster movie of this summer.

Taiwan-born and raised Ang Lee, who moved to America in 1978 to study film, is now Hollywood's golden boy director after the success of his two major films *Pride and Prejudice* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. He was attracted to the comics-based project because of his "interest in the duality of the human personality".

However, judging by the movie trailers, Universal seems more interested in marketing the Hulk simply as an unstoppable monster, smashing up everything and ready to take on the world.

## Lack of credits

With most of the budget spent on effects, there are no heavy hitters in lead roles. The Hulk's alter ego, Bruce Banner, is played by the relative unknown Australian Eric Bana, whose last name must have helped at the auditions.

Unlike the TV series, the Hulk himself is pure CGI, with his face based on an exaggerated version of Bana as Banner. As in the comic, Betty Ross is the love interest, here played by Jennifer Connelly, whose career ranges from *Labyrinth* and *The Rocketeer* to winning an Oscar for best supporting actress in *A Beautiful Mind*.

"Thunderbolt" Ross (US Army General and resident Hulk-hater) is portrayed by Sam Elliott, and – as Glen Talbot – Josh Lucas plays the youngest looking army major you'll ever see. In a move to appease just about every anorak on the face of

the planet, fresh from his stint in a cycling race against a Rabbi and a catholic priest on the cult Channel 4 show *Banzai*, the original Hulk – Lou Ferrigno – is tipped to appear in a cameo.

But hardcore fans are up in arms: it appears that the showing of the new Hulk trailer on TV during the American Super Bowl and its posting on the Hulk movie website created a chasm of divided loyalties.

One posted, "Shrek looks more realistic than this green CGI piece of crap." Others then joined the fray, "The CGI stinks. Ask Peter Jackson and see *Lord of the Rings* for tips on how to do

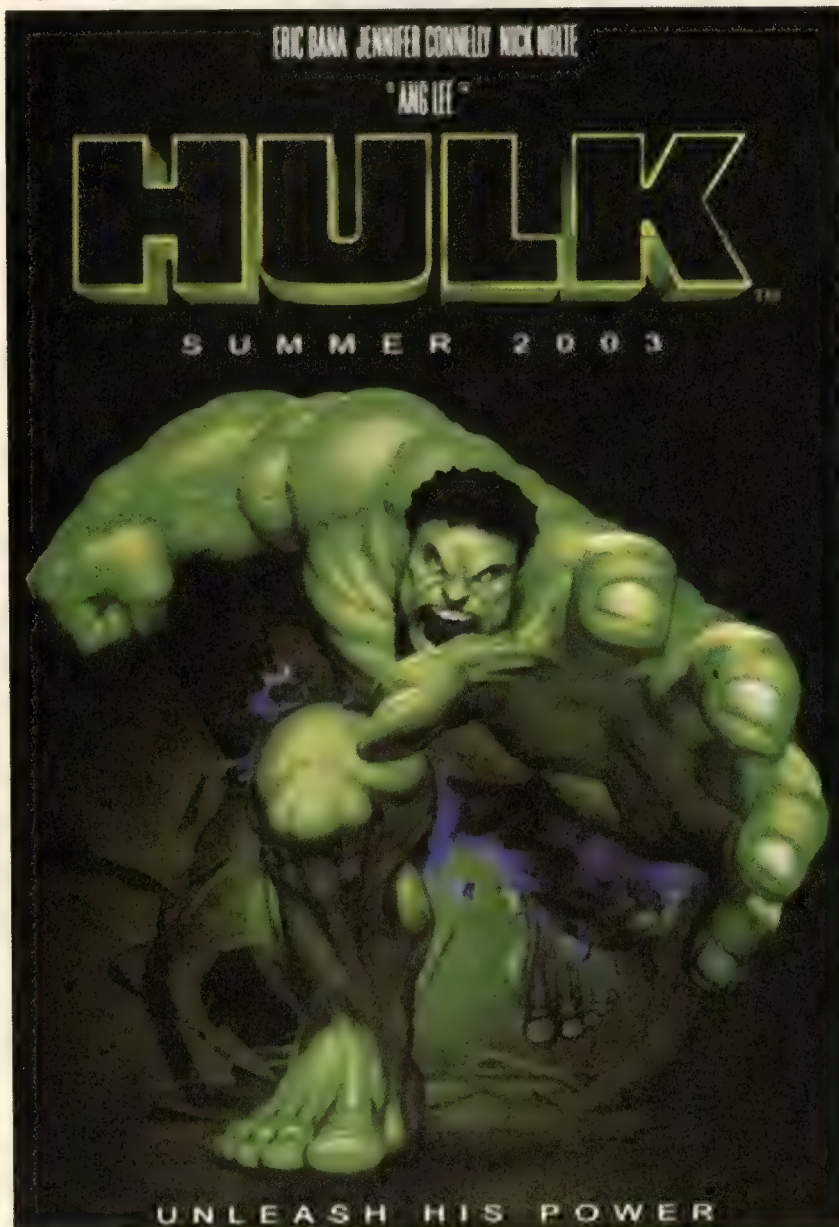
it." Then it went from bitchy to just plain illegal. "It blows, don't even go see it. Wait to download it from the net."

Then a ray of sunshine, "I think the Hulk looks great and I can't wait to see it. From what I have seen I think the people working on the Hulk are doing a great job." This turned into a break in the clouds with, "Of course he is CGI, did you expect Lou Ferrigno or something...?" which led to a full blown heat wave of positive pourings, "I'm not a huge fan of the Hulk, but I thought the trailer was really enticing. It really made me want to go see the movie." Things finished on a very cheesy note with, "I

think the CGI Hulk could be better – but you know, I'll still end up seeing it anyway."

Rumours abound of Industrial Light and Magic having assigned its best animators to work on *Star Wars Episode 3*, leaving the less experienced to handle *Hulk* duties; a valid argument considering George Lucas owns the company.

Ang Lee is going for the classic grunting green gargantuan aspect of the character firmly rooted in the TV approach. While the comic version has been through many changes in its 40 year span, it has invariably retreated to this misunderstood monster approach. In Hulk's



Bursting out of a foil-covered Easter egg, a painted Hulk in the movie's latest teaser poster. The ultimate tease in fact, as the campaign is going the Godzilla route, playing down any finished CGI visuals of the big green monster until the last minute.



latest reincarnation, new writer Bruce Jones is being praised as the title's saviour, after an inauspicious relaunch a few years ago failed to ignite sales. But this is history repeating itself when you consider one of Marvel's biggest household names had been its first casualty.

## Unexpected flop

Incredibly, Marvel's first failure was *The Hulk*, with his title cancelled after six issues in March 1963. He was to languish in limbo for another 18 months before being revived as a back-up to Giant-Man (!) in *Tales To Astonish* #59. After over three years as a support character, it was only when the lead strip, by then Namor, got its own series that, with issue #102, Hulk got the retitled comic to himself. Over the next 372 issues, the comic created careers for untested ex-Marvel publicist-turned-writer Peter David, plus artists Dale Keown and Gary Frank. It also boosted the profiles of other artists including Todd McFarlane, Liam Sharp and Erik Larson. However, writer Bill Mantlo and a range of journeymen artists churned out some of the most uninspired tales for years, so whoever took on the Hulk book next was bound to make it look like a classic.

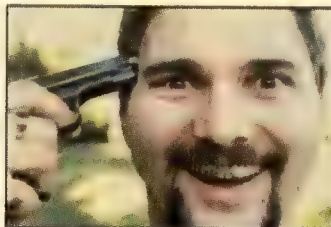
Despite the comic taking a turgid turn, hundreds of thousands still bought it, buoyed on by Bill Bixby turning into Lou Ferrigno every week on ITV, after the perfect warm up with an entire ringful of cheap looking ham-acting wrestlers at 5 pm on Saturdays. For five years the TV Hulk was doggedly chased by oily reporter Jack McGhee week in week out. Did he ever catch up with Banner? Or had he found a perfect excuse for fiddling his newspaper's expense account?

TV series creator/writer/producer Kenneth (Six Million Dollar Man) Johnson changed Banner's first name to David because he thought Bruce was "gay sounding" and didn't want an alliterative comics character name. Richard Kiel (James Bond's Jaws) was originally cast as the TV Hulk, but after a few weeks filming was dropped after a bulkier 6'5" 300lb Ferrigno was found to better offset Bixby.

"You wouldn't like me when I'm angry" became the phrase of 1979, making the Hulk so much of an icon that Universal could get Keith Harris as Banner and Orville as the Hulk, and millions would still pay to watch it.



Above: An early shot of the new CGI Hulk from *Industrial Light and Magic*, seen against Hulk-fan Glendo's retouched version, after the style of Happy Herb Trimpe's mammoth stint on the title.



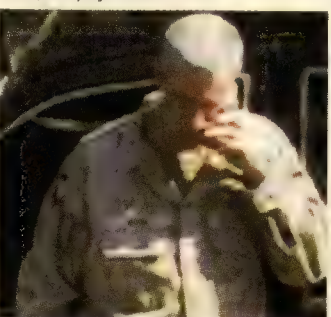
The unlikely choice of Eric Bana in character from cult film *Chopper*. Obviously these pictured qualities of meekness, shyness and intelligence led to him being cast as Dr Banner.



Jennifer Connelly (Betty Ross) manages to remain composed despite the fact she has been sitting in the same spot for three weeks because her chin and hands have been superglued together.



The kind of father who would make anybody want to Hulk out. A fetching mugshot of Nick Nolte, who plays Banner's dad.



General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross (Sam Elliott) downhearted on the Hulk set after his bookie tells him that his horse is still running, two weeks after the race stopped.



YOUR CHANCE  
TO WIN A SLICE  
OF HISTORY. . .

The first-  
ever issue  
of *The Hulk*  
from 1962.



Worth over  
£1600  
guide price!

The Incredible Hulk #1 (FN grade)  
as created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby

Simply choose the correct answer for the following question:

Stan Lee based *The Hulk* on which classic?

- a) Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- b) Guy Endore's *The Werewolf of Paris*
- c) Robert Louis Stephenson's *Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*

Name:

(Please print)

Address:

(Street & number)

(Town or city)

(County or State, post code or zip code and country if outside UK)

The winner will be selected and the prize sent out on April 7th, 2003

Please also complete the following:

My five favourite features this issue are (please mark in order as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th – not ticked):

\_\_\_ NEWS INTERNATIONAL

\_\_\_ SEZ DEZ

\_\_\_ HULK MOVIE FEATURE

\_\_\_ COMMENT

\_\_\_ HELLBOY PREVIEW

\_\_\_ NOVEL GRAPHICS

\_\_\_ FRAME TO FRAME

\_\_\_ BEYOND 2000: DAVID BISHOP

\_\_\_ BIFF'S ILLUMINATIONS

\_\_\_ ADVANCE LISTINGS

\_\_\_ IN THE GUTTER

\_\_\_ NETWORKS

\_\_\_ Q AND A

\_\_\_ REVIEWS

\_\_\_ COMICS ECONOMICS

\_\_\_ MOVERS & SHAKERS

\_\_\_ LETTERS/COMIC CUTS

\_\_\_ EVENTS GUIDE

\_\_\_ ADVERTISEMENTS

\_\_\_ COMPETITIONS

PLUS... which of the above is your LEAST favourite, the one you skipped reading, the one you wish we'd replaced with a new contender for the top spot:

Send this form (sorry, no faxes, copies or e-mails) to:

**HULK COMPETITION**  
**COMICS INTERNATIONAL,**  
**345 DITCHLING ROAD, BRIGHTON BN1 6JJ**

All entries must be postmarked before March 29th, 2003

CUT OUT COUPON ALONG DOTTED LINE



## In Brief

DARK Horse is anticipating that its relaunch of Robert E Howard's seminal sword and sorcery hero in his own comic will not premiere until early 2004. **Conan** is to be written by **The Power Company's** Kurt Busiek.

TOP COW head Marc Silvestri is to illustrate a currently unscheduled four-issue story arc for **New X-Men** writer Grant Morrison.

Following negotiations for the artist to work on Marvel's mutants, his own Image imprint is to gain a series of Marvel/Top Cow crossovers. While the final approval is still awaited, the first title is intended to be **Witchblade/Wolverine**.

GAIL Simone is taking over **Birds of Prey**.

The former **Deadpool** writer – who is also developing a **Rose and Thorn** series for DC – begins her run with the June-shipping #56. Joining her on the issue as the comic's regular penciller is ex-**Supergirl** artist Ed Benes.

DARK Horse has dropped its plans for tie-ins with the *xXx* and *Reign of Fire* movies.

FUTURE Comics is dropping the page count of its titles from 28 to 22.

The change – which brings with it a cut in cover price from \$3.50 to \$2.99 – kicks in with the May-shipping **Deathmask** #3, **Freemind** #7 and **Metallix** #6.

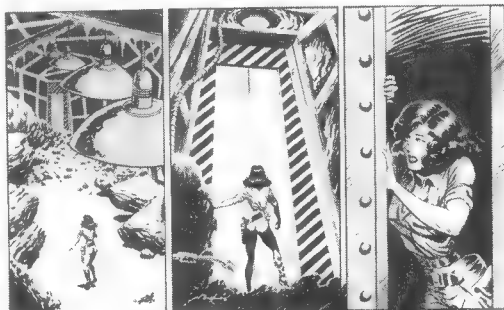
RON (A-Next) Frenz is returning to Marvel's MC2 Universe to replace Pat Olliffe on **Spider-Girl**.

The original Spider-Girl artist – he and writer Tom DeFalco introduced this future daughter of Peter and Mary Jane Parker in 1998's **What If...?** #105 – Frenz takes over with #57, which ships on February 5. The \$2.99 comic was solicited as being drawn by Olliffe as was #58.

**FALLEN Angel** is a new DC Series from **Supergirl** writer Peter David, who said, "It's really kind of nifty and it's the closest thing to a Vertigo book that DC will publish. DC really wants to start pushing the envelope and start developing a new set of books that will not necessarily be part of the DC Universe, but act as kind of a bridge."

"Right now," he added, "you've got the DC books, which are essentially PG. And you've got the Vertigo books, which are R. What they're trying to do is more comics in between the two. **Fallen Angel** is going to be one of those."

The series launches in July. It is drawn by David Lopez, a newcomer who illustrated **Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight** #159-161.



DARK Horse is to make all 14 issues of Mark Schultz's acclaimed **Xenozoic Tales** available for the first time since the collapse of Kitchen Sink, the black and white series' original publisher, in 1998. The 128-page first of two \$14.95 volumes reprinting the comic ships on April 30. The 176-page second compilation follows on May 28. Schultz told **CI** he hoped the collections would generate sufficient interest to justify his return to the title he launched in 1987.



## X-Statix artist's "Plastic Man" goes it alone

MIKE Allred has selected the stretchable Mr Gum as the star of the third in his occasional series of **Atomics** one-shots for Oni Press.

Written by the **X-Statix** artist, the 24-page **Mr Gum** is drawn by **Mutant, Texas** artist J Bone.

When **CI** spoke with Allred about the comic he was still nailing down the script. "But," he said, "I can tell you it's mostly Mr Gum's search for love when he realizes everyone else in the **Atomics** is paired up but him – including Frank Einstein and Joe Lombard. So, it's the whole cast with the spotlight

shining on Gum."

Describing the story as fast, fun and poignant, Allred said he wanted it to be, "Kind of a road trip, I guess... with the emphasis on trip."

Allred added that among his forthcoming projects are a **Teen Titans** one-shot, which features the original team. It is written by original writer Bob Haney with art by Allred and Jay Stephens.

He is also writing and drawing stories for an all-new **Madman King-Size Special**, which he hopes to have ready for the summer.

**Mr Gum**, priced \$2.95, ships on April 2.

# Jademan's Wong takes on Batman

HONG Kong's best-known comics creator is embarking on his highest profile American project to date.

The man responsible for such Jademan Comics titles as **Drunken Fist** and **Oriental Heroes** – published in the US from 1988 to 1993 – is drawing a hardcover **Batman** graphic novel.

Written by **Master of Kung Fu's** Doug Moench, the 128-pager takes the Gotham City hero across the world to the home of the artist, Tony Wong, who, says DC group editor Andy Helfer, practically invented the whole comics business in Hong Kong.

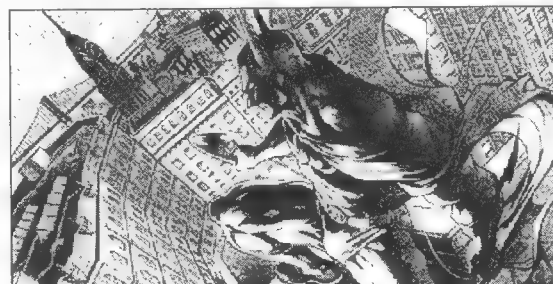
Scheduled for June, the aptly-titled **Batman: Hong Kong** introduces the mysterious Night Dragon. The city's



own superhero, he may be the only hope for Batman who has travelled to Hong Kong to stop a serial killer who uses streaming video to broadcast his vicious executions via the internet.

But once there, Batman becomes involved in a feud between two brothers: one, the head of a local criminal gang, the other, the chief of police.

● Wong's current manhua (comics) title, **Mega Dragon & Tiger**, is published in the US by ComicsOne.Com.



## DC to wrestle with new Kids' WB! cartoon series

AMERICAN kids are to get even more exposure to the theatrics of Mexican masked wrestling with a comic spin-off from *Mucha Lucha*, the first-ever Flash-animated TV show.

Like the series – which airs on Kids' WB! in a quirky mixture of Spanish and English otherwise known as Spanglish – the DC three-parter features Rikochet, Buena Girl and the Flea. These three kids are would-be masked grapplers who attend The Foremost World-Renowned International School of Lucha Libre [literally free – as in all-in – wrestling]. The school teaches the sport-spectacle-cultural phenomenon which is over-the-top pro wrestling – masked Mexican style.

All three live by the masked wrestling code of honour, family, tradition and doughnuts.



Above: Lili Chin's cover art for the first issue of DC's **Mucha Lucha** three-parter.

The miniseries is written by Eddie Mort – who co-created the TV show with Lili Chin – and drawn by Ricardo Garcia Fuentes and Mike DeCarlo, the art team responsible for DC's Cartoon Network spin-off, **The Powerpuff Girls**.

**Mucha Lucha** #1, priced \$2.25, ships on April 23.





**SILKE** creator Tony Daniel is returning to comics after a 12-month sabbatical to pencil the 48-page **Tomb Raider** #30 [see art above]. Scheduled for a May release, the Image/Top Cow comic is written by series regular John Ney Reiber. Daniel is also developing his first SF series for which he is currently looking for a publisher. Planned as an ongoing series, his **Armored Battle Tenth** is set on Darklon, some 50 years prior to the invasion of Earth. **Night Walkers**, a sequel to Daniel's **The Tenth** is also in the pipeline.

## Lee Falk hero gets Moonstone boost



FOLLOWING the success of its occasional **Phantom** one-shots, Moonstone is to promote Lee Falk's **Ghost Who Walks** to be the star of its first ongoing title.

Publisher Joe Gentile told **CI** the plan is initially to publish **The Phantom** as a series of miniseries on something akin to a bimonthly frequency.

These are to be produced by the regular team of new **Green Lantern** writer Ben Raab – who already scripts **Phantom** stories for Egmont Scandinavia – and artist Pat Quinn [see art left], who drew **Cross Plains' Necrotic: Dead Flesh on a Living Body**. John (Planetary) Cassaday is to provide the covers.

## Reverse Flash returns

PROFESSOR Zoom is being resurrected by **Flash** writer Geoff Johns.

One of the Silver Age **Flash**'s major foes, Zoom – the Reverse Flash – is set to return in **The Flash** #197. Drawn by series regulars Scott Kolins and Doug Hazlewood, the DC comic features the first episode of **Blitz**, a four-partner which climaxes in July in the 48-page #200.

"Wally West is about to learn the most painful lesson of his life," announced the writer. "The Flash is not the Fastest Man Alive. That honour belongs to another: Zoom. Face-to-face with a



Above: Scott Kolins and Doug Hazlewood's cover art for DC's **\$2.25 Flash** #197.

twisted enemy bent on moulding the Flash into his own version of the perfect hero, Wally West is about to go through the biggest change in his life since he donned the scarlet uniform."

**The Flash** #197, priced \$2.25, ships on April 16.



## Image offers Aussie alternative

HEARKENING back to the days of Jim Valentino's non-line of indie titles, Image is to offer a US release to a black and white graphic novel from the Australian alternative comics scene.

### Pain in the neck

Bruce Mutard usually created, his own comics but, as he told **CI**, "Self-publishing is punishingly expensive (for me), loses money, is difficult to distribute – especially from Australia where one has to pay for air-freight everywhere and within Australia where no national distributor of comics exists, difficult to entice retailers to order an unknown publisher/artist: in short a royal pain in the neck. I had been wanting a well-established publisher for years and Image were the first to put their hand up for **Bunker**; although this took over a year to occur.

"Going with a publisher I avoid all of the hassles I

mention," he explained. "I published four issues of **Street Smell** comics between 1994 and 1998 and I'm still recovering.

"Boy loves girl, girl does not love boy, boy doesn't get the girl: unfulfilled teen lust in contemporary suburbia," Mutard quipped when asked for the high-concept pitch for his new 96-pager.

### Sexual feelings

"This trivialises it to a fair degree since I'm more interested in charting the murky undercurrents of a male-female childhood friendship that comes unstuck as they enter their teen years and sexual feelings come into play," he added. "This overlays even deeper, darker psychological currents that manifest in subtle and disturbing ways, although I'd rather not reveal what they are this early."

**Bunker**, priced \$9.95, ships on April 16.

## In Brief

THE FORMER Your Man @ Marvel has re-emerged as Your Friend @ CrossGen.

Marketing communications manager Bill Rosemann left Marvel at the beginning of December, after 10 years with the New York-based publisher, to move to Florida.

He is to join CrossGen on February 24 where he becomes director of marketing communications. This position is newly created to free current director of corporate communications, Ian Feller, to assume the role of managing editor of the Code 6 imprint on a full time basis.

MARVEL is changing tack with its latest **Must Haves** comic.

Unlike previous one-shots, which featured issues from four different titles, the rush-released **Marvel Must Haves: Ultimate Venom** reprints **Ultimate Spider-Man** #33-36 – the first four chapters in the six-part **Venom** saga by Brian Michael Bendis, Mark Bagley and Art Thibert.

The 96-page special is priced \$3.99. It ships on February 26, just two weeks after the serial's final episode.

AFTER initially announcing plans to publish as an independent, Roaring Studios has chosen to tuck itself under the Image umbrella.

To take full advantage of the change of direction it has pushed back until summer the launch of its first two titles – **The Hedge Knight**, an adaptation of George R R Martin's novella, and **Legacy**.

**MILK and Cheese's** Evan Dorkin is the latest indie creator to work on X-books. He is to write a two-issue serial for Marvel's \$2.99 **Agent X**.

The story, which begins on April 23 in issue #10, is illustrated by the **Mekanix** team of Juan Bobillo and Marcelo Sosa.

**SUPERGIRL'S** Peter David is to write a new **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** comic.

To be published by DreamWave, the currently unscheduled title is to be based on the new animated TV series. Unaffected by this development, **Mirage Studios'** current black and white **TMNT** comic is to continue.

IMAGE has cancelled issues #15 and 16 of Michael Turner's **Fathom**.

No reason has been given for the cancellation of the comics – originally solicited to ship in April and June 2002 – or what the implication is for the future of the Top Cow title in light of the writer/artist setting up his own publishing company, Aspen Entertainment.

Geoff Johns and Jeph Loeb are rumoured to be involved in the new venture.





Above: A Mark Texeira pencilled page from **Tomb Raider: Scarface's Treasure**. Written by Geoff (Avengers) Johns, the 24-pager is a Dynamic Forces exclusive. Scheduled to ship in June, it is priced \$5. Signed copies are to be made available but a price has yet to be set for these. In the meantime, DF head Nick Barrucci is to celebrate the New Jersey-based company's 10th anniversary with a special two-hour show on the UK's QVC shopping channel. Featuring **Lord of the Rings** artists the Brothers Hildebrandt as guests, it airs on Saturday, February 21st at 9.00pm.

## Superteens take break

**X-MEN: Ronin** writer J Torres has called on a bevy of artists to contribute to a one-shot that fills the gap until his **Sidekicks** co-creator/artist Takeshi Miyazawa is free to draw another miniseries featuring their superteen heroes.

An anthology, Oni Press's **Sidekicks Super Summer Fun Special** features Garth,

the teen-aged werewolf, on a visit to grandma's house as drawn by **Elektra: Glimpse and Echo's** Scott Morse; and Kurtis, Mark, and Steve at Onipalooza – the season's hottest music festival – with art by Steve (Mek) Rolston while **Fantastic Four's** Mike Wieringo depicts Terry and the girls selecting their new swimsuits. All three black and white stories are tied together by a framing sequence illustrated by Niya-zawa, currently producing work for the Japanese market.

### Black Panther

Torres is to script **Black Panther** #57-58, becoming the title's first writer since Christopher Priest relaunched it at Marvel Knights in 1998.

His serial is pencilled by Ryan Bodenheimer, winner of the Wolverine section of Marvel's 2002 Talent Search.

**Sidekicks Super Summer Fun Special**, priced \$2.99, ships on June 5. **Black Panther** #57 and 58, priced \$2.99 each, ship on April 9 and 30 respectively.



Above: Steve Rolston pencilled art for Oni's **Sidekicks Super Summer Fun Special**.

## Zen continues nostalgia revival

THE successful relaunches of everything from **Micronauts**, **G.I. Joe** and **Transformers** to **Robotech**, **Battle of the Planets** and **Thundercats** has convinced creators Steve Stern and Dan Cote the time is right for a revival of their **Zen**, **Intergalactic Ninja**.

Now simply titled **Zen**, it is set to return in a #0 issue written by Stern and drawn by Bill Maus [see art right], the artist most closely associated with **Zen's** Entity Comics adventures – published from 1987 to 1995.

Speaking with **CI** about the project – which is to be published by Stern and Cote's **Zen Comics** – the writer said it was about “the coolest ET in the cosmos who has a close encounter with a wacky little planet called Earth”.

For those unfamiliar with the character's previous

incarnation, he added, “**Zen** was created in a test tube, as part of a genetic experiment. When the experiment was deemed a failure, **Zen** was about to be disposed of when a female scientist took pity on him and jettisoned him into space in a pod.

“The pod drifted providentially into the gravitational pull of the planet OM, home of the Masters, who taught **Zen** the ultimate arts of meditation and self-defence,” he continued. “When **Zen** reached maturity, the Masters sent him out into space, in order to find his destiny. **Zen** became a freelance mercenary, hiring out to the highest bidder.”

Stern said the new stories – which see the hero mainly preoccupied with trying to figure out what makes humans tick – also features, **NiraX**, “a fellow mercenary,



whose motivation is to make as many creds as she can, yet still find time for a nice bubble-bath.”

**Zen** #0, priced \$2.95, ships in April.

## Top Shelf editor has no answer to Big Questions

THE ALAN Moore and Melinda Gebbie **Cobweb** story that America's Best Comics would not run in its **Tomorrow Stories** anthology is to be featured instead in the 336-page **Top Shelf: Asks**

the **Big Questions** anthology.

Now relettered to feature **La Toile** – French for The Web – the tale sits alongside strips, some in colour, by Chris Ware, Seth, Joe Matt Tony Millionaire and many

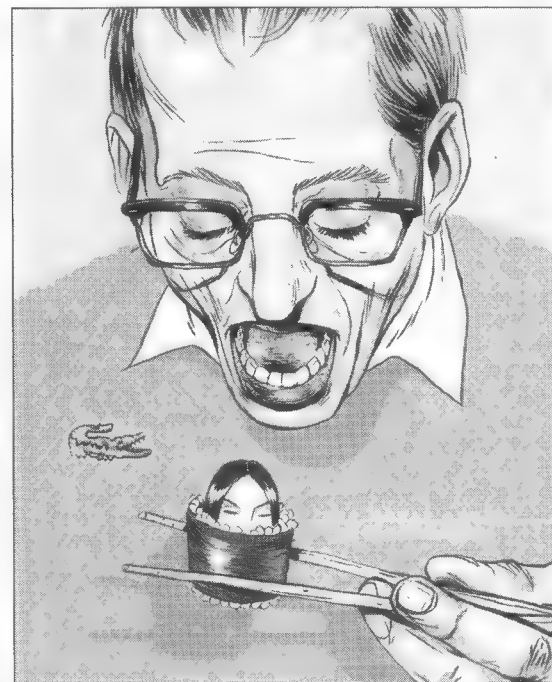
others, including a number from Europe and elsewhere.

Asked about the 7x8½” softcover's title, co-editor Brett Warnock said, “To be honest with you, my co-editor – Robot Publishing's Rob Goodin – came up with the title. I wish I could say there's some significance to the name, and some grand theme, but there's really not. Perhaps we had some crazy vision at the conception of the book, but that was four years ago, and after all this time, we've just been focused on finishing the mammoth project.”

He added, “I think more than choosing a theme, then specifically soliciting material based on that theme, our philosophy has been to identify excellent short form comics when it crosses our desk.

“A good anthology – and every good anthology knows that it can't please all of the people all of the time – elevates the art form, similar to the way that a fabulous group art show does the same. By providing a context for readers to grasp what's going on in the current scene,” he concluded.

**Top Shelf: Asks the Big Questions**, priced \$24.95, ships in May.



Above: The cover to the 300-page **Top Shelf Asks the Big Questions** anthology; art by Tomer Hanuka.



# Justice and law collide at Oni

**SKINWALKER's** Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir are to take a look at the ramifications of California's extreme "three strikes and you're out" law in an Oni five-parter.

Joining the writers for the aptly-titled **Three Strikes** is **Queen & Country: Declassified** artist Brian Hurtt, who worked with them on **Skinwalker**.

According to Oni, the black and white series examines the difference between law and justice and how one choice can alter everything. It features college student Rey Quintana and bail enforce-

ment agent Noah Conway whose lives collide in a way that changes them forever.

"The idea for **Three Strikes** emerged out of my frustration with California's ludicrous law of the same name," DeFilippis said. "I was talking to Greg Rucka about the absurdity and inherent bigotry in the statute and his immediate response was, 'You have to do a story about it'."

● California's Three Strikes Law, a statute law since 1994, threatens repeat offenders with a life sentence for any third felony conviction.

**Three Strikes** #1, priced \$2.99, ships on April 23.



Above: Jim Lee and Scott Williams' cover art for **Batman Double Feature**. A 48-page one-shot reprinting **Batman** #608 and 609 — Lee and writer Jeph Loeb's first two issues on the DC title — the \$3.95 comic is available now. Shipping on April 30 is **Batman: Hush**, a 192-page hardcover which reprints these two issues plus their follow-up story from #610-612. The \$19.95 volume is to include four new story pages plus two pages previously available only on DC's website and a covers gallery.

## Kid Colt artist dies

JACK Keller died on January 2 at the age of 80.

Born June 16, 1922, he began his comics career in

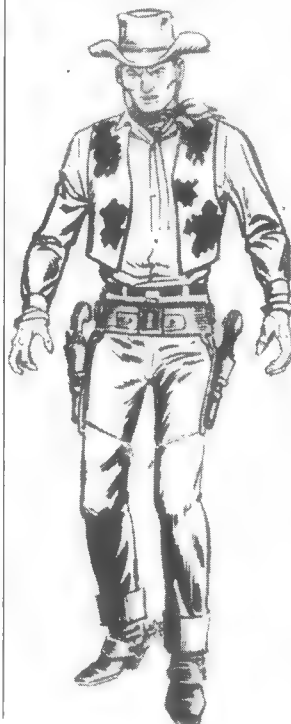
1941 writing and drawing *The Whistler*, a comic strip he submitted to Dell Comics totally on spec.

Shortly after he joined Quality Comics where his assignments included assisting Lou Fine on *The Spirit* in Will Eisner's absence and inking **Blackhawk**.

He subsequently worked for Fawcett, Fiction House, Lev Gleason and Hillman among other publishers before landing at Timely (Marvel) in 1950. There he drew mainly westerns, most notably a mammoth run on **Kid Colt**, **Outlaw** (1951-1967), the title with which he is most associated.

In 1955, he also began working for Charlton Comics where he continued drawing westerns — among them **Billy the Kid**. A prolific writer/artist, he produced hundreds of Charlton strips for such teen comics as **Surf n' Wheels**, **Dragstrip Hotrodders** and **Drag n' Wheels**.

Keller retired from comics in 1973.



## CI #154 competition winners

IN CI #154, 10 readers were offered the opportunity to win copies of DC/Titan's new Frank Miller hardback editions of **The Dark Knight Returns** and **The Dark Knight Strikes Back**. The lucky winners are:

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Simon Baker, London SW18        | Jonathan Furno, Wickhamford      |
| B. Beck, Barrow-in-Furness      | Steven Gubertig, Bar Hill, Cambs |
| Alistair Boyles, Ballyclare, NI | Mr C Jones, London SW11          |
| Mark Brooklyn, Hucknall, Notts  | Mark Nicoll, Crawley, W Sussex   |
| David Fieldwalker, Wentworth    | Gary Watton, Halesowen           |

All winners have already received their prizes direct from the publisher.

Favourite feature votes scored the ten most popular sections of CI#154 as:

|                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 News International (24%) | 6 Sez Dez (5.5%)               |
| 2 Reviews (14%)            | 7 Novel Graphics (4.7%)        |
| 3 Q&A (7.3%)               | 8 Frame to Frame (4.2%)        |
| 4 Networks (7.2%)          | 9 Comment (3.4%)               |
| 5 Advance Listings (6.9%)  | 10 A-Z of Comics Movies (3.3%) |

The section which scored highest as the least popular feature was: Beyond 2000 (12%), scoring one point more than Comics Economics or Novel Graphics — which other readers voted into 7th most popular.

## In Brief

TREVOR Hairsine is coming off **Captain America** with only three of six issues completed.

Brought in to replace John Cassaday, the **Cla\$\$ War** artist is being moved on to what Marvel describes as "a high profile secret project". Jae Lee — already designated to take over the \$2.99 Marvel Knights series with #12 — is moving his involvement up to begin with the March 12th-shipping #10.

UNSUNG and generally unnoticed, Claypool Comics hits two milestones in 2003.

The independent publisher is not only celebrating its 10th year of existence but also the release of its 250th publication — the \$2.50 **Soulsearchers and Company** #58. The landmark black and white comic is written by series co-creators Peter David and Richard Howell with art by Gordon Purcell and Kim DeMulder.

BRAD Vancata is leaving CrossGen Comics to return to a freelance career.

As of #2, which ships on March 26, his place as inker of **Brath** is being taken by John Dell, who is being replaced on **Route 666** by Drew Geraci, who takes over on February 19 with #9.

AUTHOR of **The Windrose Chronicles** Barbara Hambly is writing Penny-Farthing's **The Invisible Labyrinth**.

A spin-off from **The Victorian**, the 64-page one-shot focuses on the villainous Claude Ballarè. It is slated for an April or May release to coincide with the premiere of *Act IV* of the core title.

**X-STATIX** is to be replaced on Marvel's May schedule by the two-issue **Wolverine/Doop**.

Written by series regular Pete Milligan, it is drawn by **Catwoman's** Darwyn Cooke. Never at a loss for words, editor Axel Alonso described the mini-series as "The Maltese Falcon meets *Lethal Weapon* meets *The Defiant Ones* meets *My Dinner With Andre* meets *The Matrix* meets *Crocodile Hunter* in the team-up to end all team-ups".

THE SECOND volume of the **Marvel Encyclopedia** is devoted to the X-Men. The 128-page hardcover ships on April 2, priced \$29.99.

JIM McLaughlin has been appointed publisher at Top Cow Entertainment.

The former **Wizard** staffer and current president of ACTOR: A Commitment To Our Roots — the non-profit organisation which provides financial assistance to elderly comics creators in need — is also replacing David Wohl as editor-in-chief of the Image imprint. He assumed his new positions on January 1st.



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## Corben: Getting over the underground

Novel Graphics by Paul Gravett

Highlighting the latest and best in graphic novels



THE SURPRISE comeback of Richard Corben over the past two years, drawing for DC and Marvel of all places, has introduced his inimitable comic art to a whole new readership, many of whom were not even born when he started out on his career over thirty years ago. Now partnered with hot writer Brian Azzarello, Corben is enjoying some overdue reappraisal as one of America's most individualistic sequential artists.

He's always been a bit of a loner and a maverick, self-contained and deliberately keeping himself isolated from both the mainstream comics industry of New York and the hippy underground scene in San Francisco.

A Missouri farmboy, he spent his middle-American childhood in Sunflower, population 800. Hooked on comicbooks, his tastes developed through a superhero stage to an addiction to the classy EC comics line, especially their horror short stories, brimming with macabre comedy. When the cleansing Comics Code wiped those out, Corben all but abandoned comics, apart from sketching a few of his own, purely for fun.

Shy with girls, bookish and introverted, Corben was encouraged to pursue art by his parents and moved to Kansas City to study filmmaking. His talents for illustration and animation were soon recognised and after graduation and a stint in the army, he worked for nine years for Calvin Studios as an animator on uninspiring industrial films.

And there he might have languished, twenty-something and unfulfilled, had he not rediscovered his enthusiasm for comics, rekindled by Jim Warren's black and white magazines *Creepy* in 1964 and *Eerie* the following year. He bombarded them with submissions but got no response.

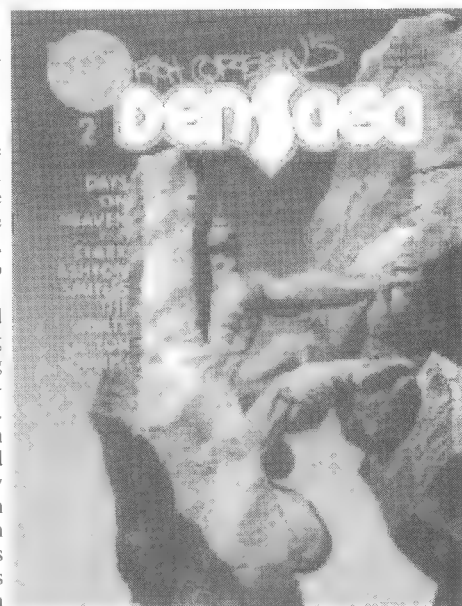
Undeterred, he tried other routes, discovering fandom and contributing strips and illos to well-produced fanzines. These and the then emerging underground comix, uncensored by the Code, prompted him to shell out for his own black and white comic as a portfolio of his greytone and airbrush

effects. *Fantagor* in 1970 presented three of his darkly ironic science fiction tales, inspired by EC, but with more explicit sex and violence and with a grasp of purely visual storytelling from his years of storyboarding. Reprinted and properly distributed by underground publishers Last Gasp, it put Corben on the comix map.

Paying appearances in the EC-style comix *Skull*, *Slow Death*, *Fever Dreams* and others swiftly followed and, overoptimistic, Corben quit his day job to cartoon fulltime. The underground boom of the early 70s was soon heading for a bust. Luckily from 1971 Corben had started receiving scripts for *Creepy* and *Eerie*, where he would craft some of his strongest work in colour.

In these days of Alex Ross and company, everyone is used to fully-painted colour in comics, but it was virtually unknown at that time in America (apart perhaps from Harvey Kurtzman's strip, *Little Annie Fanny*, in *Playboy*). Unable to afford mechanical colour separations, Corben devised a unique but labour-intensive method to simulate full colour artwork by building up the colours in black on four acetate overlays, resulting in an uncanny, almost photographic immediacy.

He would also sculpt clay models of his characters to help visualise lighting effects or even to photograph for "fumetti" experiments. In the new colour inserts in Warren's magazines, illuminating twisted twist-enders and recurring series like *Child*, *The*



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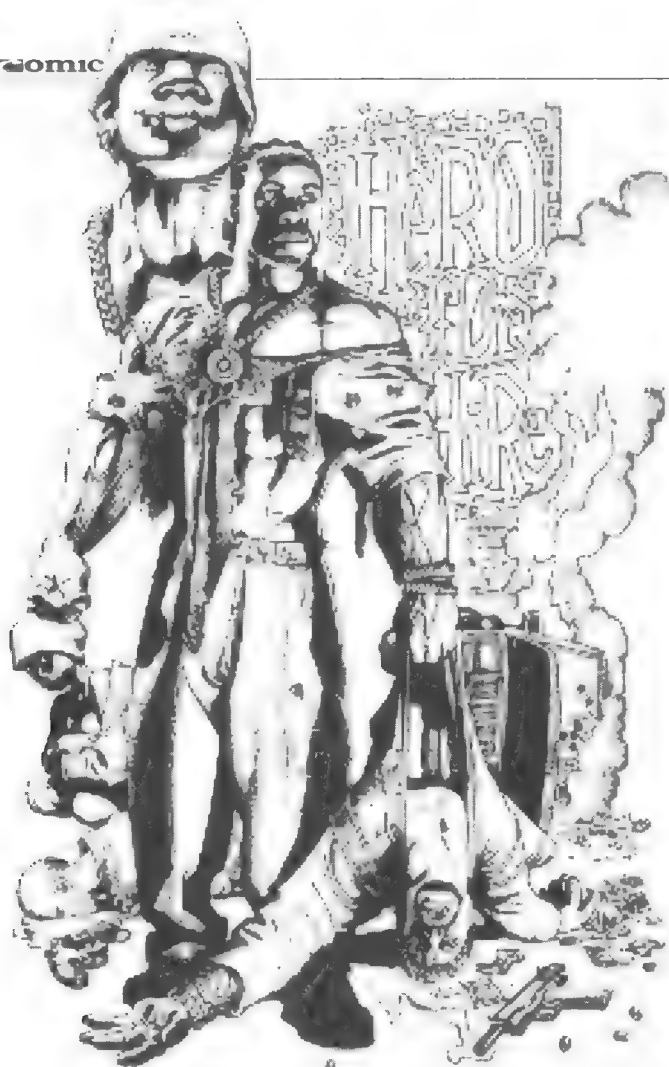
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Above: Richard Corben's promotional art for *Cage*. Opposite page: His *Magnum Opus*, the sprawling *Den Saga* that started in 1978 with *Neverwhere*.

*Butcher and Mutant World*, his electric spectrum grabbed you by the eyeballs.

Corben took some five years – on and off – to write and draw his landmark 98-page graphic novel, *Neverwhere* – finally serialised in France's *Métal Hurlant* in 1978 and later its American offshoot *Heavy Metal*. It sprang from a half-hour 16mm movie, part hand-drawn animation, part live action, which he had made with help and finance from his former employers at Calvin.

The lead in both the film and the comic sequel is a mild-mannered electrical engineer, zapped by a circuit he has mysteriously constructed to the untamed dimension of *Neverwhere*. Here he is transformed into its pumped-up champion Den, absurdly muscled and endowed, hairless and naked, the unlikely hero is sent to rescue tempting – but devious – buxom beauties from savage beasts and scheming rulers. Corben's plotting may be erratic and prone to charges of sexism and cliché, but his total conviction and self-absorption in imagining this sensual dreamscape captivate and transport us there.

Corben brought an unsettling mixture of caricatured, often satirical grotesquerie and intense, convincing realism to his fantasy, science fiction and horror comics from the Eighties and Nineties. He illustrated the stories of Edgar Allan Poe, Harlan Ellison, Bruce Jones, Jan Strnad and others.

Never before had such wildly cartoonish worlds proved so tangibly

convincing.

Corben's resurgence began in 2000 at DC with a Batman one-off, and Vertigo genre shorts scripted by long-time collaborator Simon Revelstroke. These led to their riveting 85-page adaptation of *The House on the Borderland*, the chilling 1908 classic by William Hope Hodgson. Next came the five-part *Hellblazer* arc *Hard Time*, in which writer Azzarello, new to the character, put the cynical Constantine through the wringer in what must be the bleakest and funniest prison sentence on record. These DC projects heralded a shift in Corben's technique back to pen-and-ink black line, heightened with precision stippling and cross-hatching which could be finished by skilled computer colourists.

Which brings us up-to-date to Corben's two mini-series for Marvel, both by Azzarello, now in book form. If anyone was born to draw green muscled man The Hulk, it is surely Corben with *Banner* as an enjoyable, variation on the monster-hero.

*Cage*, on the other hand, is the business, a fearsome modernisation of Seventies' blaxploitation star Luke Cage, still a "hero-for-hire" but now a moody brother on the streets, looking cool in his red reflective shades, as he gets caught in the crossfire of a three-way turf-war. José Villarubia provides the richest textured colouring yet to Corben's linework, a perfect combo. Mr. Corben. It's good to have you back.

# WEIRD FANTASY

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# Big Blast brings Circle of Confusion around Oni's creator-owned Marquis

Mike Conroy's Frame to Frame

Charting the latest news between films and comics



SINCE its formation in 1999, Big Blast Entertainment has had only limited success in placing properties in Hollywood. That those creations are in some way connected with Oni Press is hardly surprising given the tie between the two organisations.

The Los Angeles-based media rights holding and production company was set up by Oni publisher Joe Nozemack and Graphitti Designs' Bob Chapman with Chip Mosher, formerly of Pixel Productions and Giant Studios. After optioning Phil Hester and Mike Huddleston's Oni title *The Coffin* to James Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment in 2001, Big Blast more recently landed Hester Andy Kuhn's *Firebreather* - an Image comic,

As part of its 2002 media alliance with Circle of Confusion, it is now developing another Oni title - *The Marquis* by Guy Davis. The project is moving ahead based on a script by writer/director Matthew Arnold, a newcomer, who approached Oni with the pitch.

Circle's David Engel blandly describes the movie - based on Davis's initial [2001] five-parter - as an 18th century vigilante movie set in the aftermath of a war.

Oni's description of the miniseries

makes it sound like ideal material for *Plunkett & Macleane* director Jake Scott, especially if he could recapture the atmosphere and style

of his 1999 film chronicling the exploits of two English highwaymen in the 18th century.

## Souls of Hell

Oni's description of *The Marquis* states, "It was during the 18th century that the Ministry of Inquisition ruled over the lands of Venisalle. In the world of The Marquis, faith and religion are the strict laws of life and death. It is into this world that the souls of Hell have escaped to sin, murder, and be free by taking possession of the living. During this time, a man of the Inquisition finds himself blessed with the ability to see into the very souls of the damned and fight the demons within. But as The Marquis begins his holy crusade to send back the escapees of Hell, the battle between good and evil starts to blur into a struggle between faith and sanity."

## The Matrix

As well as *The Marquis*, Circle of Confusion is also involved in the development of a number of other comic-to-film projects including Brian Michael Bendis and Michael Avon Oeming's *Powers* and DreamWave's *Fate of the Blade*. A management agency, it represents Bendis, *The Matrix*'s Larry and Andy Wachowski, *Reign of Fire* writers Gregg Chabot and Kevin Perterka and Com.X.

With plans to start its own comics line through Oni later this year, Circle has now optioned Oeming and Mark Wheatley's *Hammer of the*









# Advance Listings

**READERS:** You can use this Advance Listings section as an order form with your direct market store or mail order supplier. Simply mark the items you require, copy or remove these pages (or list them on a separate piece of paper) and give it to your supplier, together with a note of your name, address and phone number to guarantee not missing any of the new titles being published. Certain suppliers may not accept standing orders, so check with them first. All prices of US titles listed are in dollars. Import prices are usually converted at a rate of \$1.00 = 85p UK sterling. Shipping dates given are the earliest date product will reach stores. All dates, prices and information are assumed to be accurate as provided by publishers.

The following are 32 page colour titles unless stated

ON SALE FROM

**APRIL 2**

## Dark Horse

**new Blackburne Covenant 1** (of 4; Fabian Nicieza & Stefano Raffaele) Someone is following popular fantasy novelist Richard Kaine. Not a demented fan, not a jilted lover. Someone interested in finding out how Richard came up with his runaway bestseller first novel. Because unbeknownst to Richard, his book was really nonfiction. .... \$2.99

**The Devil's Footprints 2** (of 4; Scott Allie + Paul Lee & Brian Horton + Dave Stewart) Brandon Waite digs up his dead father in hopes of finding some clue to what's killing his family. While this supernatural force threatens those he loves, Brandon finds himself the victim of a good-old witch hunt, in the fine New England tradition. .... \$2.99

**Ghost in the Shell 2 (Man-Machine Interface 5; Masamune Shirow)** Cyber-agent Motoko Aramaki remains hot on the trail of the shadowy terrorists making life hell for Poseidon Industrial. Motoko deploys a cyborg surrogate, Chroma, for on-the-ground operations to pick up needed information, but while waiting for an e-brain private eye to pony up the data, Chroma is jacked into a no-holds-barred virtual combat game—at least she hopes it's virtual! Mature readers. .... \$3.50

**Star Wars: Empire 8 (Darklighter 1 of 4; Paul Chadwick & Doug Wheatley + Chris Chuckry)** Luke and the ill-fated Biggs were childhood friends. In fact, it was Luke's dream to follow Biggs to the Imperial Academy. But what Biggs learns from his time with the Empire pushes him to become one of the earliest heroes of the Rebellion. .... \$2.99

**one-shot Star Wars: Infinities—The Empire Strikes Back** (David Land & David Fabbri + Christian Della Vecchia) See Close-Up, right.

## DC Comics

**100 Bullets 44** (Brian Azzarello & Eduardo Risso; *Vertigo*) Forced to deal with a psychotic thug looking for some lethal payback and a vicious guard with a chip on his shoulder, things go from worse to worst for Loop when he comes face to face with an animal more savage than anything he's come across behind bars. Mature readers. .... \$2.50

**21 Down 8 (Roadside Attractions 1 of 5; Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Jesús Salz + Palmiotti; WildStorm)** Downtown Detroit is under siege from an angry weather god, while Mickey and Preston find themselves immersed in the mystery surrounding a young girl's disappearance. Strange things start to happen as Preston's powers begin growing in unexpected ways. .... \$2.95

**Action Comics 802 (The Harvest 1 of 5; Joe Kelly & Tom Derenick + Bob Petrecca)** Get a look at the face behind the iron mask of the mysterious General Zod, as the secrets behind his shocking origins come into focus. .... \$2.25

**new Batman: Nevermore 1** (of 5; Len Wein & Guy Davis; *Elseworlds*) In Baltimore in the late 1800s, a number of high-ranking citizens have been murdered in ways that defy explanation. The only thing linking the murders are sightings of a giant raven fleeing each crime scene. .... \$2.50

**Big Daddy Danger 9** (of 9; Adam Pollina & Pollina + Tyson McAdoo) The lords of the wrestling ring converge as Big Daddy faces his greatest challenge yet! What will be the ultimate fate of Big Daddy, wife Dana, son Danny, and brother Diablo? .... \$2.95

**final issue Codename: Knockout 23** (Robert Rodi & John Lucas + Andrew Pepoy; *Vertigo*) For decades, G.O.O.D. and E.V.I.L. have waged battle with each other across the globe. Now one of these agencies is brought to a ruinous collapse, never to rise again. Mature. .... \$2.75

**Detective Comics 781** (Ed Brubaker + Jon Lewis & Tommy Castillo + Stefano Gaudiano) Gotham City's newest—and possibly most dangerous—villain plans to take out more of Arkham's enemies. Can Batman—or anyone—stop him? 40pg .... \$2.75

**Doom Patrol 19** (John Arcudi & Tan Eng Huat) The return of the blind monk, Tycho! He's got a new plan to get back the sword of the seven spirits, accompanied by an army of monkeys. .... \$2.50

**one-shot Gen<sup>13</sup>: Meanwhile...** (Adam

Warren & various; *WildStorm*; tpbk) Collects the all-subplot issue, the two issue *Failed Universe* saga, and *Uncle Cloud*, the in-depth examination of Sarah Rainmaker's family history and weather control powers. 160pg .... \$17.95

**one-shot Green Arrow: Quiver** (Kevin Smith & Phil Hester + Ande Parks; tpbk) Green Arrow Oliver Queen re-emerges after years of being presumed dead. But many, including Black Canary his ex-lover, Arsenal his ex-partner, Connor Hawke his son, and Batman the Dark Knight Detective, want to know how Green Arrow survived an airplane explosion and where he's been. 232pg .... \$17.95

**Hawkman 14** (Geoff Johns & Donald Kramer + Prentiss Rollins) Hawkgirl confronts the murderer of her parents—and the Hawks both want him dead! The question is: Who's going to do the deed? .... \$2.50

**one-shot JSA: Fair Play** (Geoff Johns & Rags Morales + various; tpbk) Collecting JSA #26-31 and a story from JSA Secret Files #2, Fair Play pits the JSA against Roulette, who runs the most dangerous gambling den on Earth—a club where costumed adventurers are lured to fight for their lives as supervillains bet on the outcome. 176pg .... \$14.95

**Justice League Adventures 18** (Stan Berkowitz & Chris Jones + Dan Davis) An alien race has established a beachhead on Earth in a most unexpected place and it's up to the minuscule Justice League ally, the Atom, to stop the invading force from taking down the League's most powerful member. .... \$2.25

**Looney Tunes 101** (various) Bugs enters a beauty pageant as Miss

Albuquerque, breaking emcee Elmer Fudd's heart—and his skull! .... \$2.25

**Mad Magazine 429** (The Usual Gang of Idiots) This month, a MAD first—the all-silent, all-serious issue! Give me that calendar... 48pg .... \$3.50

**Robotech 5** (of 6; Tommy Yune + Jay Faerber & Long Vo; *WildStorm*) While recovering from injuries sustained in his crash, Roy learns the truth about the VF-1 program, and not a moment too soon! Variant cover. .... \$2.95

## Marvel

**new The Call 1** (Chuck Austen & Patrick Olliffe) They saved Manhattan from certain doom, but will they be able to save themselves? The saga of Marvel's everyday heroes continues. .... \$2.25

**new Sentinel 1** (Sean McKeever & UDON) Juston Seyfert is about to make a discovery that will change his life: the ravaged remains of a giant robot buried in his family's salvage yard! But what could a downtrodden, disillusioned high school sophomore possibly do with a 30-foot tall engine of destruction? Anything he wants! \$2.99

**Spider-Girl 59** (*Season of the Serpent* 6 of 6; Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz) \$2.99

**Thor 62** (Dan Jurgens & Ben + Ray Lai) The Thunder God's presence on Earth ruins the lives of three people. .... \$2.99

**Ultimate Spider-Man 39** (Brian Michael Bendis & Mark Bagley + Art Thibert) The aftermath of the Vemon Saga! Peter pays an unexpected visit to Nick Fury and gets some unexpected answers. .... \$2.25

## close-up

### Star Wars: Infinities—The Empire Strikes Back

Dark Horse Comics

Writer: David Land

Artist: Davidé Fabbri + Christian Della Vecchia

Luke Skywalker's torpedo attack on the Death Star failed due to a faulty detonator and the Rebellion was dealt a debilitating setback. Now, Han Solo's attempt to locate Luke in the icy wastes of the planet Hoth is thwarted when the tauntaun he's riding succumbs to the cold while Han is still a mile from Luke's location. Collects the miniseries. 96pg .. \$12.95

**ON SALE APRIL 2**

**Uncanny X-Men 421** (Chuck Austen & Ron Garney) The X-Men face off against Alpha Flight. .... \$2.25

**new Wolverine: X-Isle 1** (Bruce Jones & Jorge Lucas) At a carnival with his stepdaughter Amiko, Wolverine shows a violent side of himself that sends the young girl running. .... \$2.50

**X-Men 2 Movie Adaptation** (Chuck Austen & Patrick Zircher) The adaptation of one of 2003's more anticipated sequels. 48pg .... \$3.50

ON SALE FROM

**APRIL 9**

## Dark Horse

**Blade of the Immortal 78** (*Fall Frost* 6 of 6; Hiroaki Samura) Still seeking vengeance, poor samurai girl Rin is at her wit's end, and only a surprise can save her from death by exposure. Mature readers. b&w .... \$2.99

**Grendel: God and The Devil 3** (Matt Wagner & Jay Geldhof + John K. Snyder III) Still reeling from the social and political shock waves left behind by the appearance of the new Grendel, corrupt Pope Innocent XLII withdraws from the public eye, pulling his own circle tighter as he tries to figure out how to turn the deadly situation to his advantage. .... \$3.50

**Kiss 9** (Scott Lobdell & Mel Rubi) Is there a man inside the Beast King, and is the Demon headed down the same inhuman path? And is the Celestial completely above the world of men, or can the Starchild bring him back? Who are the Four Who Are One? And who are they meant to be? .... \$2.99

**one-shot Metropolis** (Osamu Tezuka) In a not-so-far-off future a beautiful, artificially created girl—unaware of her non-human background—searches for the nonexistent parents she believes must exist, wandering alone in a world populated by humans and by the slave-driven robots who serve them. b&w 168pg ... \$13.95

**one-shot Shadow Star: Nothing but the Truth** (Mihori Kito) Shiina and Akira are awkward, self-conscious teenagers, struggling with school and self-esteem. But their lives change forever when they bond with small, cuddly extraterrestrial creatures, two of a menagerie of spaceborn entities now on Earth, including terrifying Shadow Dragons, flying beasts of vast and lethal powers. b&w 160pg .... \$14.95

## DC Comics

**Adventures of Superman 615** (Joe Casey & Derec Aucoin + John Stanisci) Superman's time in the pocket dimension Heroville—an idyllic town where everyone has superpowers—continues as he comes face to face with the Hollow Men! \$2.25

**Aquaman 5** (Rick Veitch & Yvel Guichet + Mark Propst) Aquaman learns the hard way that a brief moment of rage can have deadly consequences. By using his magical, watery hand as a weapon, he has inadvertently released The Thirst—a twisted parasite who feeds on the same Secret Sea that Aquaman has sworn to channel into this world! \$2.50

**Astro City: Local Heroes 2** (of 5; Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson; *Homage*) Bimonthly. What happens when a young woman becomes determined to uncover a superhero's secret identity and nothing is going to stand in her way? .... \$2.95

**Batgirl: Year One 5** (of 9; Scott Beatty + Chuck Dixon & Marcos Martin + Alvaro Lopez) The Killer Moth has been beaten





by one bat too many. But being bested by the fledgling Batgirl may have pushed the unstable wannabe supervillain a little too far. .... \$2.95

**Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight** 166 (*Don't Blink* 3 of 4; Dwayne McDuffie & Val Semeiks + Dan Green) The baby merchant Blink's been inhabiting has been murdered by a guilt-ridden psychopath. Now Blink can do nothing more than watch through the eyes of a child as the maniac threatens to go ballistic. .... \$2.50

**Blood and Water** 2 (of 5; Judd Winick & Tomm Coker; *Vertigo*) Adam's best friends are vampires; they're fast, fun and they live forever. A little Kool-Aid, a little blood and Adam is ready to go. But being "made" is the least of his worries when something awakens from the dark, forgotten places of the world. Mature readers. .... \$2.95

**Fables** 12 (Bill Willingham & Lan Medina + Craig Hamilton; *Vertigo*) She's gorgeous, fashionable and rich, and it's up to Bigby to keep Sleeping Beauty from pricking her finger, or Fabletown will go up in thorns. Mature. .... \$2.50

**Gen** 13 #8 (Chris Claremont & Alé Garza + Sandra Hope; *WildStorm*) As Caitlin finds herself more and more enraptured with her mysterious new suitor, the kids grow alarmed at the emergence of a new race of beings called the Chrome, who threaten to destroy Gen13. .... \$2.95

**Gotham Central** 6 (Greg Rucka & Michael Lark) Renee Montoya's life is about to be shattered to smithereens, revealing to colleagues a bad side of Montoya. Her deepest secret is exposed and her personal life becomes inextricably entwined with her professional life. .... \$2.50

**Green Arrow** 23 (*Black Circle: Urban Knights* 1 of 6; Ben Raab & Charlie Adlard) Part 1 of the story running through Green Arrow and Green Lantern. Green Arrow is in hot pursuit of brutal drug dealers in a fast and furious chase through the streets of Star City. Green Lantern is knocking around the Russian mob in a Soho nightclub with three models on his arms. .... \$2.50

**Harley Quinn** 31 (A.J. Lieberman & Nathan Fox) Harley gained powers beyond those of normal humans when she was the subject of Poison Ivy's experiments. But every gift has its price, and now Harley faces the consequences. .... \$2.50

**Hunter: The Age of Magic** 22 (Dylan Horrocks & Richard Case + Steve Bird; *Vertigo*) An ambitious young artist has been exploring the relationship between art and magic, and at last his dream has become a reality. Now the art galleries of London have become gateways to a thousand alternate worlds and the whole fabric of reality is collapsing. Mature readers. .... \$2.75

**JLA: Age of Wonder** 1 (of 2; Adisakdi Tantimedh & Galen Showman; *Elseworlds*) Using his powers to aid scientific discovery and usher in an Age of Wonder, Superman forms the forward-thinking League of Science with backing from millionaire philanthropist Bruce Wayne. 48pg. .... \$5.95

**Legion of Super-Heroes Archives** Vol 12 (various) Reprinting Superboy + The Legion of Super-Heroes #213-223 and Karate Kid #1, featuring a score of classic Legion foes, including the Fatal Five, Tyroc, the Miracle Machine, the Time Trapper and more. 232pg \$49.99

**Reload** 2 (of 3; Warren Ellis & Paul Gulacy + Jimmy Palmiotti; *Homage*) Chris Royal has just been through the worst day of his life. Under his watch, the President of the United States has been assassinated; Washington DC is under siege from parties unknown; and no one believes the real culprit behind all the crime is still at large. .... \$2.95

**Scooby-Doo** 71 (various) A be-bop ghost haunting a troubled jazz club has Scooby-Doo singing the blues! .. \$2.25

**Stormwatch: Team Achilles** 10 (Micah Ian Wright & Whilce Portacio + Sal Regla; *WildStorm*) Khalid Tefibi finds himself at the centre of an operation to capture him – and he's on the run in a strange city from a Pentagon-based supergroup. How can this computer nerd hope to survive against the world's mightiest soldiers with no backup from his StormWatch compatriots? Mature readers. .... \$2.95

**Superman & Batman: Generations III** #4 (of 12; John Byrne) The death of Wonder Woman has unexpected consequences as John Byrne's maxi-series hits the 23rd century. .... \$2.95

**Tom Strong** 20 (Alan Moore & Jerry Ordway + Karl Story; *America's Best Comics*) Tom Strong learns what would have happened – who he would be – if things had been a fraction different. Journey back to the last days of the 19th century, to a time before Tom Strong was born, and learn what can happen in the blink of an eye. .... \$2.95

## Marvel

**new** **411** #1 (of 3; various) Peace-keeper-based miniseries starts here. .... \$3.50

**Black Panther** 57 (J. Torres & Ryan Bodenheim) .... \$2.99

**Captain America** 12 (John Ney Rieber & Chuck Austen + Jae Lee; *Marvel Knights*) A mysterious package makes Captain America question his past, his memories and himself. \$2.99

**Exiles** 25 (Judd Winick & Kev Walker) Gambit and his reality-hopping team, Weapon X, face off against the Inhumans. .... \$2.99

**new** **Human Torch** 1 (Karl Kesel & Skottie Young) Deep inside, Johnny Storm has a burning desire for something – and not just when he bursts into flame as the Human Torch. Though rich, famous, and privy to sights and experiences most people can't imagine, something's missing. A direction. A purpose. A spark. .... \$2.50

**Incredible Hulk** 52 (Bruce Jones & Mike Deodato Jr) .... \$2.25

**Iron Man** 67 (Manhunt 3 of 5; Robin Laws & Michael Ryan + Sean Parsons) .... \$2.99

**Marvel Encyclopedia Vol. 2: X-Men** (various) A comprehensive set of biographies of more than 350 X-Men characters from all media. 128pg \$29.99

**Marvel Universe: The End** 3 (of 6; Jim Starlin & Starlin + Al Milgrom) The final tale of the Marvel Universe continues. .... \$2.99

**Punisher** 24 (Garth Ennis & Tom Mandrake; *Marvel Knights*) Petrification. .... \$2.99

**Ultimate X-Men Vol. 5: Ultimate War** (Mark Millar & Chris Bachalo) When the X-Men do the worst thing they could to humanity, the government orders Captain America, Iron Man, Thor and the rest of the Ultimates to bring them down. But Professor X, hasn't been training his students for nothing – and the young mutants just might take out the Ultimates first. Collecting *Ultimate War* #1-4. 112pg. .... \$10.99

**Wolverine: X-Isle** 2 (Bruce Jones & Jorge Lucas) Unable to face what he's done, Wolverine is propelled into a soul-searching adventure he may not be able to escape. .... \$2.50

**X-Men Unlimited** 45 (Chuck Austen & Pop Mhan) A tie-in with this month's Uncanny X-Men. Alpha Flight's in full force, and expanding their roster! Witness the birth of Vindicator's and Guardian's baby! .... \$2.50

**X-Men: Ronin** 3 (of 5; J. Torres & Makoto Nakatsuka) .... \$2.99

ON SALE FROM

**APRIL 16**

## Dark Horse

**Judge Dredd/Aliens: Incubus** 2 (of 4; John Wagner & Andy Diggle + Henry Flint) The unflinching Judge Dredd and his elite group of Judges struggle to fend off an infestation of the deadly, acid-drooling Aliens. Dredd initially thought that the Aliens were part of an illegal pit-fighting ring, but it's possible that they are linked to Mutant Jack and his anti-Judge activists, and only time will tell if more Aliens are hidden in the city! .... \$2.99

**Star Wars: Jedi – Shaak Ti** (John Ostrander + Jan Duursema & Dan Parsons) Among the Jedi, Master Shaak Ti is known as a peacemaker; the calm voice of reason. But caught on the ground on war-torn Brentaal IV with a rapidly dwindling platoon of clone troopers, Shaak Ti is forced to go on the offensive. 48pg. .... \$4.99

**Star Wars: Republic** 53 (*Blast Radius*; Haden Blackman & Brian Ching) An all-Jedi strike force is assembled for a secret mission to infiltrate a Skakoan Techno Union base that is supporting the Separatists. Among those selected for the mission is Obi-Wan Kenobi, who finds himself teamed with several legendary Jedi Masters. Surrounded by so many powerful individuals, Obi-Wan feels there is little he can bring to the mission. But when the base turns out to be a trap designed to kill Jedi, Obi-Wan finds himself in a leadership position, fighting for the survival of the team! .... \$2.99

## DC Comics

**one-shot** **Adam Strange: The Man of Two**

**Worlds** (Richard Bruning & Andy Kubert; tpbk) Collecting the 1990 three issue miniseries. Discover the man behind the myth, as Adam Strange's childhood on Earth is explored, his relationship with his estranged family is revealed, and secrets of Rann – and of Adam's new life – are uncovered. 160pg. .... \$19.95

**Batman: Gotham Knights** 40 (Scott Beatty + Robert Rodi & Roger Robinson + John Proctor) Batman, the Huntress and Checkmate have been working in the same town, but from different angles, and the tension between them has come to an explosive end! .... \$2.75

**Batman: Harvest Breed** (George Pratt) A series of grisly, demonic murders forces Commissioner Gordon to reopen a case file of similar unsolved murders from years past, leading Batman down a path towards stopping the killer before more bodies can pile up. 96pg. .... \$17.95

**new** **Beware the Creeper** 1 (of 5; Jason Hall & Cliff Chiang; *Vertigo*) A bizarre, creature of the night stalks the streets of Paris. The enigmatic hero has her sights set on the upper class, but what are the true motivations behind her actions? Mature. .... \$2.95

**one-shot** **Bloody Dreams** (J.M. DeMatteis & Glenn Barr; *Paradox Press*) A single 384-page softcover volume of this out-of-print title, bringing the story of 17-year old Vincent Carl Santini's momentous senior year in high school back to life. Mature. 384pg b+w \$12.95

**The Flash** 197 (*Blitz* 4 of 4; Geoff Johns & Scott Kolins + Doug Hazlewood) Professor Zoom returns in a story that reveals the secrets behind his origin! But what's his strange goal? .... \$2.25

## Illuminations

Highlights from April's releases

Selected by Martin "Biff" Averro



A very poor showing of new titles this month, nothing to get a retailer salivating at the thought of their cash register overheating and not a jot for the fan who loves to buy multiple copies with the thought of making a nice quick profit.

Dark Horse, always the movie tie-in company, have a **Shrek** four-issue mini beautifully illustrated by Ramon Bachs and Raul Fernandez that captures the feel and humour of the film. But will this bring in the fans? Not likely. Saleswise a loser, at least in the UK. **Sales 1/5 Quality 5/5**

Likely to fare a little better is the conclusion to Peter David's **Spyboy**. The missing 13th issue has finally been found. The final story arc will last three issues, and will be numbered 13.1, 13.2, 13.3. As with most Peter David titles it is an excellent read and has wonderful art, but unfortunately sales seldom follow. Evidence **Supergirl** over at DC. This finishes with #80 and David has written the whole series with some fabulous storylines, culminating in the recent *Return of Supergirl* run. The art on **Spyboy** is superb and it really deserves better sales than it has managed so far. If you've never read an issue go and pick up this concluding story arc. **Sales 2/5 Quality 5/5**

DC has a quiet month, with only one new continuing series, a handful of *Elseworld* miniseries and a Vertigo rewrite of **The Creeper**. The ongoing series, **Sweatshop**, is by acclaimed writer/artist Peter Bagge whose work on his series **Hate**, published by Fantagraphics, shot him to fame. With art assists from S. DeStefano and Bill Wray, the story of the short-tempered cartoonist Mel Bowling will, I am sure, be outrageously funny and experimental. All of Peter Bagge's work has a long shelf life, with people looking for it years after it is published, so retailers bear this in mind when ordering. **Sales 3/5 Quality 5/5**

The highlight of DC's month will once again be **Batman**, which is going from strength to strength, both in sales and quality. I expect #614, which focuses on The Joker finally facing a Batman who will give no quarter, to top even previous sales. Couple this with the release of the **Hush** hardcover which reprints **Batman** #608-612, and you can see why **Batman** is back as DC's numero uno. **Sales 5/5 Quality 5/5**

Image has produced its usual slew of issue #1s, seven this month, which will make no impact on the world of comics or sales. The total for these seven new series combined will not even beat **Powers**, which is Image's best on going series by far as Brian Michael Bendis continues to deliver. However, if you like **Battle of the Planets** then you'll have an expensive month, as there are four titles out: **BOTP** #9, **BOTP Mark**, **BOTP BattleBook** and **BOTP/Thundercats**. Has it gone weekly? **Sales 2/5 Quality 2/5**

After I praised Marvel last month for the lack of miniseries and its concentration on the core titles, this month it goes a little berserk, giving us yet another 'new' style/imprint, called Tsunami, which it claims to be the way of the future, plus a heap of other uninspiring titles, a total of six new ongoing titles, three miniseries (one a weekly) plus a rush solicitation of the four-issue **The Marvellous Adventures of Gus Beezer**. If I listen to Marvel I should expect my cash register to over heat. More than likely comic shops will not even stock half the titles and if they do take them all, will order very low as there is no track record from which to base ordering. Nothing stands out as a winner. The Tsunami titles are another attempt to create a manga line. Once again it takes established Marvel characters – Namor, Venom, Mystique, The Human Torch and for good measure a couple of unknowns Runaways and Sentinels – and uses a manga style on them. All, apart from maybe **Venom**, are most probably doomed to fail. **Sales 1/5 Quality 3/5**

With 21 years of comic retail experience as *Ace Comics*, Biff has also produced his **Illuminations** monthly fanzine for 19 years before moving it to the web.



**Green Lantern** 162 (*Black Circle: Urban Knights* 2 of 6; Judd Winick & Charlie Adlard) There's a mystery to be solved, an intergalactic crime organisation to take down, and hostility brewing between Green Lantern and Green Arrow. .... \$2.25

**H-E-R-O** 3 (Will Pfeifer & Kano) Jerry Feldon's learning that life as a superhero isn't all it's cracked up to be! Jerry decides to share the secret of H-E-R-O with Molly, the girl he loves. But when a gunman robs their restaurant, Jerry's powers might be the only thing that can save Molly – if he doesn't screw things up and accidentally kill her instead! .... \$2.50

**JLA: Scary Monsters** 2 (of 6; Chris Claremont & Josh Hood & Sean Parsons) With Green Lantern and Flash out for the count, how will the JLA contend with the fearsome monsters that are exploding from the Earth's surface and besieging the Spirit Lake resort? \$2.50

**JSA** 47 (David S. Goyer & Geoff Johns & Leonard Kirk & Keith Champagne) The battle for the light continues as Mordru and Obsidian attack the JSA, trapping Sentinel, Captain Marvel and Star-Spangled Kid in the Shadowlands and tearing apart the rest of JSA! \$2.50

### one-shot **Lucifer: The Divine Comedy**

(Mike Carey & Peter Gross & Ryan Kelly; *Vertigo*) Reprinting *Lucifer* #21-28, this volume finds Lucifer Morningstar continuing work on his magnum opus – a new universe outside of the strictures of our own. 192pg ..... \$17.95

**Nightwing** 80 (Devin Grayson & Rick Leonardi & Jesse Delperdang) Deathstroke's in town and he's here on business! Can Nightwing stop the DCU's premier terminator from taking out his target – a target who's close to home for Dick Grayson? .... \$2.25

**The Powerpuff Girls** 37 (Abby Denson & various) Sugar, spice, and a butt-kicking back-beat save the day in two stories. .... \$2.25

**Robin** 113 (Jon Lewis & Pete Woods & Andrew Pepoy) Robin's out of Gotham and in deep trouble. Trailblazing dealers who have been flooding the streets of Gotham with illegal weaponry seemed easy, but now Robin has stumbled into a small town with some dirty secrets. .... \$2.25

**Sleeper** 4 (Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips; *WildStorm*) The game is in full swing and the rules of engagement are clear: wrong is right, black is white, deceit is truth. Tao, in the company of agents Holden Carver and Miss Misery, attend a meeting of the true power on the planet – the wizards behind the curtain. Mature. .... \$2.95

**Superman: Metropolis** 3 (of 12; Chuck Austen & Danijel Zezelj) Jimmy Olsen's investigation of the strange goings-on around Metropolis' futuristic Tech continues, as a creature wreaks havoc in the city – but what's so familiar about it from two past foes of Superman? \$2.95

**Thundercats: The Return** 3 (of 5; Ford Lytle Gilmore & Ed Benes & Joe Pimentel; *WildStorm*) Lion-O continues to learn the fates of his friends – beaten and enslaved at Mumm-ra's command – and even runs up against some old enemies in this instalment. .... \$2.95

**Wildcats Version 3.0** #9 (Joe Casey & Dustin Nguyen & Richard Friend; *WildStorm*) With Gritter unable to kick his usual amount of butt, he's got to move before Spartan pulls him from active duty. Of course, that means there could be a new Gritter in town, hand-picked by Cole Cash himself. Mature. .... \$2.95

## Marvel

**one-shot Alias** Vol 1 (Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Gaydos; *MAX Comics*) Meet Jessica Jones, one-time costumed

heroine turned private investigator. After realising her powers were unremarkable compared to those of the icons in the Marvel Universe, Jones gave up being a superhero and eventually opened up a detective agency. While her intent to help others is intact, her personal behaviour is anything but valiant: She is bitter, resentful and self-destructive. Collects *Alias* #1-9. .... \$19.99

**Amazing Spider-Man** 52 (J. Michael Straczynski & John Romita Jr. & Scott Hanna) Part 2 of a three-part story. \$2.25

**Captain Marvel** 8 (Peter David & Kyle Hotz) Guest-Starring Thor. \$2.99

**Daredevil** 46 (Brian Michael Bendis & Alex Maleev; *Marvel Knights*) A classic Daredevil villain comes calling in this start of a new story arc. .... \$2.99

**Incredible Hulk Vol. 3: Transfer of Power** (Bruce Jones & Stuart Immonen) Dr Bruce Banner faces the most unimaginable horror of all: a relentless, unkillable pursuer who knows all his weaknesses and will stop at nothing to bring him down. Collecting *Incredible Hulk* #44-49. 144pg ..... \$12.99

**new Namor** 1 (Bill Jemas & Andi Watson (w), Mizuki Sakakibara) Beneath the waves, well out of sight from human land dwellers, lies the undersea empire of Atlantis, and its heir is a young hero who yearns for the world above water even as he struggles to maintain his undersea birthright. .... \$0.25

**New X-Men** 139 (Grant Morrison & Phil Jimenez) Bishop and Sage from the *X-Treme X-Men* guest star. .... \$2.25

**Rawhide Kid** 4 (of 5; Ron Zimmerman & John Severin; *MAX Comics*) \$2.99

**new Runaways** 1 (Brian K. Vaughan & Adrian Alphona) When six young friends discover that their parents all share a deep, dark secret, the shocked teens find strength in one another and together run away from their homes and straight into the adventure of their lives. .... \$2.50

**Soldier X** #10 (Karl Bollers & Arthur Ranson) Soldier X brings the battle to United States soil, fighting the very idea of a racist militia by any means necessary. .... \$2.99

**Thunderbolts** 78 (John Arcudi & Francisco Ruiz Velasco) Axum is forced to make a hard choice – does he walk the straight & narrow line, or does he cross it and never look back? ... \$2.99

**Truth: Red, White & Black** 6 (of 7; Robert Morales & Kyle Baker) The secret history of Captain America continues. .... \$3.50

**Wolverine** 189 (Daniel Way & Staz Johnson) .... \$2.25

**Wolverine: X-Isle** 3 (Bruce Jones & Jorge Lucas) What Wolverine do? What did young Amiko see? .... \$2.50

ON SALE WEEK ENDING

# APRIL 23

## Dark Horse

**one-shot Buffy the Vampire Slayer:**

**Willow and Tara** (Amber Benson & Christopher Golden & Terry Moore & Andi Watson) This volume collects the Willow and Tara one-shot *WannaBlessedBed* drawn by Terry Moore, the two-part *Wilderness* story and Andi Watson's two-part comics strip featured in *Dark Horse Extra*. 80pg ..... \$9.95

**Fray** 7 (of 8; Joss Whedon & Karl Moline & Andy Owens) Joss Whedon, creator of *Buffy*, completes his vision of the future, the story of the future slayer. One of the fiercest battles in the history of comics begins the climax to the tale. .... \$2.99

**Hellboy: Weird Tales** 2 (Jason Pearson & John Cassaday & various) Kate Corrigan is reduced to tears and temper tantrums at the hands of her dead mother, while Hellboy finds himself in a demonic hot spring. .... \$2.99

**Spyboy** 13.1 (*The M.A.N.G.A. Affair* 1 of 3; Peter David & Pop Mhan & Norman Lee) When Japan's premiere spy is both the nation's leading comedienne and an expert secret agent, it's often tricky to sneak away to spoil the latest evil villain's global plot... but *SpyGirl* does her best! b&w 24pg ..... \$2.99

## DC Comics

**Batgirl** 39 (Dylan Horrocks & Adrian Sibar & Andy Owens) A mysterious metahuman called Black Wind has turned Batgirl's world upside down. Not only is he more than a match for Batgirl on the battlefield, but he also seems to have swept her off her feet. .... \$2.50

**Birds of Prey** 54 (Gilbert Hernandez & Casey Jones) Tom seems more smitten with Barbara by the minute, but she's only got eyes for her new security system protecting the clocktower. .... \$2.50

**Cartoon Cartoons** 17 (various) Everyone's favourite boy genius joins the all-star cartoon cast. .... \$2.25

**Forever Maelstrom** 6 (of 6; Howard Chaykin & David Tischman & John Lucas & Eduardo Barreto) As the battle to protect the timeline from Praetor reaches its fateful conclusion, our ragtag band of heroes must fight its way through a frozen landscape to restore the 21st century. .... \$2.95

**Global Frequency** 7 (of 12; Warren Ellis & Simon Bisley; *WildStorm*) A terrorist group plans to systematically exterminate high-ranking British, German and Russian intelligence operatives... unless Miranda Zero exterminates them first. .... \$2.95

**Green Arrow** 24 (*Black Circle: Urban Knights* 3 of 6; Ben Raab & Charlie Adlard) Green Arrow and Green Lantern are mystified when a lookalike of Hal Jordan's predecessor appears! What does this character have to do with Abin Sur and the original Green Lantern Corps? ... \$2.50

**Lucifer** 37 (*Naglar* 2 of 5; Mike Carey & Peter Gross & Ryan Kelly; *Vertigo*) Sailing beyond heaven, the ship made of dead men's fingernails encounters unborn universes, skeletal angels and deadly tensions among its mismatched crew members. .... \$2.50

**new Mucha Lucha** 1 (of 3; Eddie Mort & Ricardo Garcia Fuentes & Mike Decarlo) Honour, family, tradition, and doughnuts. It's the Code of Masked Wrestling! And it's a way of life for best friends Rikochet, Buena Girl and the Flea. As students at the International School of Lucha Libre, they've got to learn to wrestle with skill and wit, develop a special signature move, and still find time just to be kids! .... \$2.25

**one-shot Orbiter** (Warren Ellis & Colleen Doran; *Vertigo*) See *Close-Up*, below.

**Out There** 17 (Brian Augustyn & Humberto Ramos & Sandra Hope; *Cliffhanger Productions*) El Dorado City's final fate, the secret of the demise of Draedalus, the hidden dimensional key/talisman, and the final showdown between good and interdimensional evil are all unveiled in unexpected ways. .... \$2.95

**Promethea** 26 (Alan Moore & J.H. Williams III & Mick Gray; *America's Best Comics*) Millennium City, three years later. .... \$2.95

**The Spirit Archives** Vol 10 (Will Eisner) Featuring nearly 200 pages of classic Spirit adventures originally published from January to June 1945. The Spirit wrangles with jailbreaks, grifters, murderers, and more! 192pg .... \$49.95

**Superman** 192 (Steven T. Seagle & Scott McDaniel & Andy Owens) Metropolis's new Supergirl makes her presence known in the City of Tomorrow as she fights the villain Radiol! Plus: introducing the Viceroy – a new hero out to make Metropolis safe. .... \$2.25

**new Sweatshop** 1 (Peter Bagge & Stephen Desafano & Bill Wray) Tells the story of Mel Bowling – a nationally syndicated cartoonist who hasn't touched his strip in years. Instead, he uses a stable of aspiring young artists, each with a different career goal. \$2.95

**one-shot Thundercats/ Battle of the Planets** (Kaare Andrews; *WildStorm*) The sudden appearance of a mystical portal between Earth and Thundera leads to chaos, confusion and adventure as Lion-O and Mark rally their troops against the combined might of the villainous Zoltar and Mumm-Ra! Variant cover. 48pg ..... \$4.95

**Wonder Woman** 191 (Walter Simonson & Jerry Ordway & P. Craig Russell) Diana's search for her missing memories takes her to Paradise! Has the menace responsible for taking Diana's costume and memories got to Themyscira first? .... \$2.25

**Y: The Last Man** 10 (Brian K. Vaughan & Pia Guerra & José Marzan, Jr.; *Vertigo*) Featuring a sibling's madness, a firefight with a stolen helicopter, and a mysterious Russian who bears urgent news. Mature. .... \$2.95

## Marvel

**Agent X** #10 (Evan Dorkin & Juan Bobillo & Marcelo Sosa) What will Agent X do when he's hired to kill a man who wants to die but can't be killed? ... \$2.99

**Avengers** 66 (*Red Zone* 2 of 6; Geoff Johns & Olivier Coipel & Andy Lanning) More tales of vengeance. .... \$2.25

**Fantastic Four** 68 (*Unthinkable* 1 of 4; Mark Waid & Mike Wiering & Karl Kesel) Doctor Doom strikes through the FF's weakest link. .... \$2.25

**Fantastic Four Vol 1: Imaginators** (Mark Waid & Mike Wieringo & Mark Buckingham; tpbk) Learn the truth behind Mister Fantastic's decision to turn his friends into the Fantastic Four. See our heroes face off against a sentient mathematical equation driven mad by love, an infestation of insects from another dimension, a cascading wave of molecular instability, and the Thing on a homicidal rampage that only the Human Torch can stop. Collects *Fantastic Four* Vol 3 #60-66 and #56. 192pg .... \$17.99

**Incredible Hulk** 53 (Bruce Jones & Mike Deodato Jr) .... \$2.25

**one-shot Marvel** Vol 1 (Bill Jemas & Mark Bright; tpbk) A satirical look at the personalities and characters within the comics industry, both real and fictional. Collects *Marvel* #1-6. 144pg ..... \$12.99

**new Mystique** 1 (Brian K. Vaughan & Jorge Lucas) In a world of intrigue and seduction, where mutants are feared and hated and the X-Men are not enough to protect them, Mystique uses her shape-shifting abilities to further her own mutant rights agenda. .... \$2.99

**Peter Parker: Spider-Man** 55 (Zeb Wells & Michael O'Hare) .... \$2.25



## DC close-up

**Orbiter**

**Vertigo**

Writer: Warren Ellis

Artists: Colleen Doran

When a space shuttle that's been missing for a decade zooms back to Earth with alien skin wrapped around it and Martian sand in the undercarriage – not to mention the missing crew – three specialists cheated out of their dreams of spaceflight are the only ones who can unravel the mysteries behind the bizarre situation. Where has it been? What's been done to it? Mature. 104pg ..... \$24.95

# ON SALE APRIL 23



**Punisher** 25 (Garth Ennis & Tom Mandrake; *Marvel Knights*) ..... \$2.99

**Thor** 63 (Dan Jurgens & Ben & Ray Lai) More hammer-related goings on. \$2.99

**Uncanny X-Men** 422 (Chuck Austen & Ron Garney) 48pg ..... \$3.50

**new Venom** 1 (Daniel Way & Francisco Herrera) Venom's back and has popped up near the Arctic Circle, leaving a trail of dead bodies in his wake. Now able to jump from host-to-host with the greatest of ease, Venom is on the run from mysterious forces, each with their own agenda for the elusive alien. But is this the same Venom that we've come to know and fear? ... \$2.25

**Weapon X** #8 (*The Underground* 2 of 6; Frank Tieri & Georges Jeanty) Soldier X, Domino, Meltdown, and the other members of the Underground resistance attempt to unravel the mystery of Neverland. .... \$2.99

**Wolverine: X-Isle** 4 (Bruce Jones & Jorge Lucas) ..... \$2.50

**X-Statix** 10 (Peter Milligan & Philip Bond) ..... \$2.99

**X-Treme X-Men** 24 (Chris Claremont & Salvador Larroca) ..... \$2.99

ON SALE FROM

**APRIL 30**

## Dark Horse

**Astro Boy** Vol 14 (Osamu Tezuka) Action, laughs, and genuine emotion, interlacing fantastic situations and creatures with timeless themes and wry observances of technology, war, and the human condition. 224pg b&w .... \$9.95

**Blood World** 2 (of 3; Eddie Park & Digital Chameleon) On Blood World contestants battle mutated freaks, giant monsters, and each other to win The Blood Bath, a galaxy-wide, free-for-all killing tournament. Mature. .... \$2.99

**Buffy the Vampire Slayer** 56 (*Slayer Interrupted* 1 of 4; Scott Lobdell & Fabian Nicieza & Cliff Richards) Buffy returns from her runaway road-trip with Pike, only to discover that Dawn has read her diary, and shared what she found with their parents. Photo variant cover \$2.99

**new Shrek** 1 (of 4; Mark Evanier + Ramon Bachs & Raul Fernandez) The tale begins as Shrek, Princess Fiona, and their constant companion, Donkey, set off for a honeymoon at Fairytale Tales. But the ghost of Lord Farguad, intent on taking his fearsome revenge, interrupts the honeymooners' bliss. .... \$2.99

**Super Manga Blast!** 31 (various) The mystery continues to slowly unravel and tie itself back up in *Seraphic Feather* where we learn a bit about the past while recovering from the explosive battle against the cold-as-ice Apep Heidemann. Mature. 128pg b&w \$5.99

**new Xenozoic Tales** Vol 1 (Mark Schultz) Collecting award-winning cartoonist Mark Schultz's decade-long run of *Xenozoic Tales* in its entirety. Schultz's vision of the future includes ruined cities, guano-powered Cadillacs, warring factions of humanity, reborn dinosaurs, and their intelligent, humanoid descendants. 128pg b&w ..... \$14.95

## DC Comics

**Batman** 614 (Jeph Loeb & Jim Lee + Scott Williams) Batman's oldest foe finally has gone too far, and Batman seeks retribution. Will the Dark Knight finally do what needs to be done? \$2.25

**one-shot Batman: Hush** (Jeph Loeb & Jim



## close-up

### Alan Moore's Another Suburban Romance

Avatar Press

Writer: Alan Moore

Artists: Juan Jose Ryp

More love down in Phippsville? This volume collects Moore's performance works, which make up the play *Another Suburban Romance*. Comprised of three major pieces, adapted from Moore's original presentations by frequent collaborator Antony Johnston (*The Courtyard*), this graphic novel is illustrated by Juan Jose Ryp. ... \$17.95

**ON SALE APRIL**

Lee + Scott Williams; hbk) Reprinting *Batman* #608-612. 128pg ..... \$19.95

**Catwoman** 18 (Ed Brubaker & Javier Pulido) Catwoman's still keeping the people in Gotham's forgotten neighbourhoods safe, but without anything in her personal life as Selina Kyle to keep her going, she becomes more dangerous to herself and the people around her. .... \$2.50

**The Fifth** 10 (of 13; Grant Morrison & Chris Weston + Gary Erskine; *Vertigo*) It's time to meet Mother Dirt and learn the secret origins of the Hand organisation and of life on Earth itself. Mature readers. .... \$2.95

**Green Lantern** 163 (*Black Circle: Urban Knights* 4 of 6; Judd Winick & Charlie Adlard) All-out action ensues as Green Lantern and Green Arrow learn how to take a beating, and the education continues as they're taught that it's better to give than to receive! .... \$2.25

**Hellblazer** 183 (*Black Flowers* 2 of 2; Mike Carey & Lee Bermejo; *Vertigo*) Now that the door to the land of the dead has been kicked open, a horde of old souls is clawing its way back into flesh — pursued by something much more dangerous. Unfortunately, the cure that John comes up with may be worse than the disease. Mature readers ..... \$2.75

**JLA** 80 (*The White Rage* 1 of 3; Joe Kelly & Duncan Rouleau + Aaron Sowd) The JLA is caught in the middle of a tense standoff between a metahuman commune and the federal government. Will the Leaguers bring peace or set off a bloody conflict? ..... \$2.25

**The Legion** 19 (*Dream Crime* 1 of 5; Dan Abnett + Andy Lanning & Chris Batista + Mark Farmer) Saturn Girl visits Titan, hoping to repair the damage to her mental powers, and Dreamer hopes the Titanet telepathic system will turn her powers of prediction into a large-scale early-warning network for the United Planets. .... \$2.50

**Planetary** 16 (Warren Ellis & John Cassaday; *WildStorm*) With The Four momentarily in disarray, Elijah Snow initiates the second part of his comeback plan; to hunt down and discover the truth about Anna Hark, daughter of the criminal genius of the '30s, who died in the Adirondacks with the rest of Axel Brass' associates. .... \$2.50

**The Power Company** 15 (Kurt Busiek & Gary Chaloner) Manhunter, the most

popular member of the Power Company, travels to Gotham City on a deadly mission. But one thing stands in his way: an angry Dark Knight, who doesn't like armed mercenaries in his town! \$2.75

**The Resistance** 8 (Jimmy Palmiotti + Justin Gray & Juan Santacruz + Francis Portela; *WildStorm*) As the past comes back to haunt her, Mary tries to distance herself from the rest of the team, but the Resistance refuses to stay out of the fight! .... \$2.95

**new Superman: Red Son** 1 (of 3; Mark Millar & Dave Johnson + Andrew Robinson; *Elseworlds*) When Krypton explodes, the infant Kal-El is rocketed to Earth, where he lands on a Ukrainian farm during the 1950s! How will the Cold War affect the Man of Steel? 48pg ..... \$5.95

## Marvel

**Black Panther** 58 (J. Torres & Ryan Bodenheimer) ..... \$2.99

**Marvel Universe: The End** 4 (of 6; Jim Starlin & Starlin + Al Milgrom) .... \$2.99

**Namor** 2 (Bill Jemas & Andi Watson + Mizuki Sakakibara) Things get complicated for young Prince Namor when he meets a beautiful land-dwelling girl. .... \$2.25

**New X-Men** 140 (Grant Morrison & Phil Jimenez) Does an X-Man die? Will they be able to find the killer? Does the second question answer the first? And what about the third? What's that all about? ... \$2.25

**Paradise X** #10 (Alex Ross & Jim Krueger & Doug Braithwaite) Matt Murdock is featured in this chapter of *Paradise X*. .... \$2.99

**Rawhide Kid** 5 (of 5; Ron Zimmerman & John Severin; *MAX Comics*) \$2.99

**one-shot Spider-Man: Blue** (Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale; hbk) A lavish look back at a pivotal era — including the introduction of Peter's first love Gwen Stacy, his budding friendship with Harry Osborn and Spider-Man's startling final battle against the Green Goblin. Collects *Spider-Man: Blue* #1-6. 160pg \$21.99

**Thor Vol 3: Gods on Earth** (various) After taking on the role as ruler of Asgard, Thor has relocated his legendary home to float directly over New York City. But how will the citizens of the world — including Thor's former allies in the

Avengers — react when a host of self-styled Gods decides to intercede in the affairs of man? Collects *Thor* #51-58, *Avengers* #63, *Iron Man* #64 and *Marvel Double Shot* #1. 240pg ..... \$21.99

**Ultimate X-Men** 32 (Mark Millar & Adam Kubert + Danny Miki) It's the Ultimate fate of the Ultimate X-Men as humanity itself teeters on the edge of extinction and a new world order is waiting in the wings. .... \$2.25

**X-Men Unlimited** 46 (Ian Edginton + Bruce Jones & Simon Bisley + Sin Nagasawa) ..... \$2.50

**X-Men: Ronin** 4 (of 5; J. Torres & Makoto Nakatsuka) ..... \$2.99

**Wolverine: X-Isle** 5 (Bruce Jones & Jorge Lucas) ..... \$2.50

RELEASED & ON SALE IN

**APRIL**

## Aardvark-Vanaheim

**Cerebus** 289 (*Later Days* 24 of 35; Dave Sim & Gerhard) Pages 5,760 through 5,780 of a 6000-page story! The countdown to issue 300 (March next year) continues. b&w 24pg ..... \$2.25

## Abstract Studios

**Strangers in Paradise** 58 (Terry Moore) Katchoo faces her deadliest challenge ever when she uncovers the identity of the deadly Duck who has been stalking her for two years. b&w 24pg ..... \$2.95

**Terry Moore's Paradise Too!** 13 (Terry Moore) Oliver Wonderbee is a happy eight-year-old who falls asleep one night and wakes up 18 years-old; his parents are older, he has a girlfriend who wants to know where he's been, and a body he can't get used to! b&w 24pg ..... \$2.95

## Alternative Comics

**one-shot From the Curve: Grand Gestures** (Robert Ullman) This standalone issue is

the natural progression for Robert Ullman's acclaimed *From the Curve* series, begun as a mini-comic in 1995, with seven issues and a collection published to date. It focuses on three post-college pals and the romantic relationships (or lack of) that lend conflict and comedy to their lives. b&w 48pg ..... \$3.95

**Bipolar** 4 (Tomer + Assaf Hanuka & Etgar Keret) The story of Pizzeria Kamikaze, a guy with a broken heart who commits suicide, only to find himself in an afterlife where he must work a day job at the titular pizzeria. b&w 36pg .. \$2.95

## Amaze Ink/ Slave Labor

**Hsu and Chan** 2 (Norm Scott) See Hsu and Chan battle supernatural forces unleashed during Spring Cleaning! Witness their attempts at empire-expansion as they try to purchase a car park! b&w 24pg ..... \$2.95

**Likewise** 2 (Ariel Schrag) Ariel gets accustomed to her new divorced family life. She starts out at mum's house, where she sneaks onto the computer to read her mother's insane chronicle of every single interaction between Ariel and her dad, and then takes the bus over to dad's house where he suspects that Ariel is spying for her mum. Mature readers. b&w 40pg ..... \$4.95

**Patty Cake Vol 3: Love is All Around** (Scott Roberts; tpbk) This volume collects the remaining three issues (#7-9) of the original Permanent Press run of this long-running series. 112pg b&w ..... \$13.95

**new The Wretch Vol 1: Everyday Doomsday** (of 3; Phil Hester; tpbk) Somewhere in America lies a small town haunted by every manner of bizarre horror. The only thing weirder than the dangers threatening Glass City is the silent hero who protects it. This volume collects every story from Phil Hester's original Amaze Ink series, plus previously unpublished material. 120pg b&w ..... \$13.95

## Antarctic Press

**Counter-Ops** 2 (of 5; Peter Ang & Jin Song Kim) The full-auto action and intrigue continues as the CTF-3 team attempts to thwart a cell of terrorists from unleashing a tide of destruction upon America. .... \$3.95

**Dragon Arms** 5 (David Hutchinson) Stone reveals his true power. Will he aid the heroes in their time of need, or join in the corruption of the Dragon Kings? .. \$3.50

**Gold Digger** 42 (Fred Perry) Having concluded that Brianna showed latent magical talent in the battle with the Lich King, Dr Diggers begins instructing her in its use and control, for everyone's safety. .... \$3.50

**Luftwaffe: 1946** #8 (Ted Nomura & various) Features alternate and more comical versions of the regular series. Tigergirls are back, along with the new Afgans and Retroman. There's also manga versions of Luftwaffe: 1946 and Tigers of Terra, plus a special Naughty Nazi High School, with a serious note about the Holocaust. b&w 48pg. \$5.95

**Neotopia** 4 (Rod Espinosa) Nalyn's life filling in as a princess isn't easy at the best of times, exhausting her and earning only thankless abuse from the real princess. She's been kidnapped and rescued, then had to lead her country's troops into battle. What could possibly happen next? ..... \$3.95

**Specter** 7 #3 (of 3; Craig Babiari) As the threat of world domination looms, the leaders of a war-torn Earth gather to discuss the possibilities of surrendering



the planet to the Gastuul Empire. But in Earth's darkest hour, the dead will rise out of the rubble to aid a fallen Specter 7 against the Gastuul! ..... \$4.95

## Avatar Press

**One-shot** **Alan Moore's Another Suburban Romance** (Alan Moore & Juan Jose Ryp; graphic novel) See *Close-Up* on previous page.

**Lansdale & Truman's Dead Folks 2** (of 3; Joe R. Lansdale & Timothy Truman) Wayne the bounty hunter gets taken prisoner by a nun who tries to train the undead. Wayne has no interest in such nonsense, as the only good zombie is a dead one. b&w ..... \$3.50

**Warren Ellis' Scars 6** (of 6; Warren Ellis & Jacen Burrows) John Cain has been forced into the impossible position of having to watch a horrible man go free. But John can't let it go at that; he has promised to bring the child killer to justice by any means. b&w ..... \$3.50  
Wraparound cover ..... \$3.95

**One-shot** **Pandora: Love and War** (Robert Lugibihl & Philip Xavier; tpbk) Collecting the three part *Pandora: Alexander the Great* story from the pages of *Threshold*. Pandora has lived for thousands of years fighting to put the evil she released back into the box she inadvertently released it from. But even an immortal must fall in love and Pandora falls for the legendary Alexander the Great as he conquers all he surveys. Mature. 48pg b&w ..... \$5.95

## Bongo Comics

**Bart Simpson 12** (Shaw + Yambar & Lloyd) Bart and Lisa prove that a little imagination is a dangerous thing when they go on a sensational rampage through the streets of Springfield. \$2.50

**Simpsons Comics 81** (Boothby & Morrison) Lisa Simpson invites you to join the Springfield Book Club. Enjoy some Classics comedy and literary laughter as the citizens of Springfield share their favourite books and stories with you! ..... \$2.50

## Cartoon Books

**Bone 53** (Jeff Smith) Gran'ma Ben puts Smiley Bone in charge of watching over her two stupid, stupid prisoners. But is there a method to her madness? b&w 24pg ..... \$2.95

## CG Entertainment

**Brath 3** (Chuck Dixon & Andrea Divito + Brad Vancata; *CrossGen*) Brath Mac Garen is the warchief of a clan that rules the last free land in the known world. They are pitted against the numberless legions of an evil emperor who will stop at nothing to enslave them. Brath is tormented by visions of the God of Stags. What do these dreams mean and how will they aid him in the coming war with the numberless legions of a pitiless empire? ..... \$2.95

**Chimera 3** (of 4; Ron Marz & Brandon Peterson; *CrossGen*) On a distant ice world, a young woman with a special gift hides from her past. But the rulers of the Chimeran Imperium, a brutal intergalactic empire, will stop at nothing to find her. .... \$2.95

**The Crossovers 4** (*Cross Currents* 4 of 6; various; *Code 6*) The war between the Bellekosin and Imperatrix Tyranna heats up, but Eradikah has her hands full in Crosstown. Calista meets her first superhero, and it's not who you might think. .... \$2.95

**Crux 3** (Chuck Dixon & Steve Epting + Roland Paris; *CrossGen*) The human race has vanished without a trace. Six mighty Atlanteans wake from the sleep of ages to solve the disappearance of an entire species. But to answer this riddle their leader Capricia must confront an invading universe of evil, and discover the shocking fate that is in store for her. .... \$2.95

**Demonwars: Trial By Fire 5** (of 5; R.A. Salvatore & Scott Ciencin + Ron Wagner; *Code 6*) Can the Ranger Andacanavar, the magic-wielder Moira and the bloody red-cap dwarf Grave Mungo stand against the horrifying Managarm, or will the world of Corona be put to the torch by his fiery touch? \$2.95

**Edge 13** (various; *CrossGen*) Strange attackers lurk on the event horizon of a systems-wide black hole, as Sam and the crew of the Bitter Luck wander into an interstellar junkyard in Sigil chapter 33. 192pg ..... \$7.95

**The First 30** (Barbara Kesel & Andy Smith + Rob Hunter; *CrossGen*) Driven apart by immortal intrigue and titanic treachery, the rival houses of the godlike First reunite to avert doomsday. \$2.95

**Forge 13** (various; *CrossGen*) Features chapter 15 in the *Negation* Saga. There's also Crux (chapter 25), The Path (chapter 12), Meridian (chapter 33), Sojourn (chapter 20), and Route 666 (chapter 9). 192pg ..... \$7.95

**Lady Death 3** (various; *Code 6*) The rebirth of Lady Death attracts attention far and wide. In the Eldritch realm, the news reaches her step mother Obsidia, who secretly vows to destroy her, while her father Tvarus plans to aid her. .... \$2.95

**Mark of Charon 2** (of 5; Tony Bedard & Joe Bennet + Johnathan Glapion; *CrossGen*) Javi leads Charon's team of *Negation* Sigil-Bearers against a rebel uprising on a *Negation* world. What they encounter will set them on a road that will ultimately turn them against their master, Charon himself. .... \$2.95

**Meridian 35** (Barbara Kesel & Steve McNiven + Tom Simmons; *CrossGen*) Branded by marks of supernatural origin, Sephie and her wicked uncle Iahn will either bring renewal or destruction to the poisoned world of Demetria. Young Sephie must now grow into the role of global saviour, but will defeating her uncle cost her her innocence? .. \$2.95

**Mystic 35** (Tony Bedard & Paul Ryan; *CrossGen*) Giselle Villard couldn't care

less about magic until a mysterious symbol on her palm made her the mystic protector of planet Cress. Now she must mature into her new role before a legion of new found enemies can destroy her! ..... \$2.95

**Negation 17** (Tony Bedard & Luke Ross + Drew Geraci; *CrossGen*) Gammid's tale unfolds as the *NEGATION* team's newest member reveals many secrets, both about his own origins, and about the origins of the *CrossGen* Universe! The balance of power in *Negation* Space radically shifts in this revealing look at the roots of a war between two universes! ..... \$2.95

**Negation Vol 2** (Tony Bedard & Paul Pelletier + David Meikis; *CrossGen*; tpbk) When one of their own is abducted and held prisoner by Emperor Charon, Kaine's fugitives must attempt a rescue against all odds. 160pg ..... \$15.95

**The Path 14** (Ron Marz & Matthew Smith + Mark Pennington; *CrossGen*) As Obo-san prepares for war, he is confronted by literally the last person he ever expected as his brother Todosi seemingly returns from the grave. Will Obo-san surrender the Weapon of Heaven to his brother, or is there something far more sinister at work here? ..... \$2.95

**The Path Vol 2: Blood on Snow** (Ron Marz & Bart Sears + Mark Pennington; *CrossGen*; tpbk) A monk now stripped of his faith possesses the most powerful weapon in an exotic land of samurai warriors. As merciless invaders advance across the countryside, Obo-san must decide where his true loyalty lies. 160pg ..... \$15.95

**Route 666 #11** (Tony Bedard & Karl Moline + John Dell; *CrossGen*) Wanted for murder, Cassie Starkweather is an escaped mental patient who claims to have uncovered a vast supernatural invasion. As she fights a lonely war to keep the monsters and evil spirits from stealing innocent souls, one question haunts her: Are these creatures real... or are they her own inner demons? \$2.95

**One-shot** **Route 666 Vol 1: Highway to Horror** (Tony Bedard & Karl Moline + John Dell; *CrossGen*; tpbk) See *Close-Up*, below.

**Ruse 19** (Scott Beatty & Butch Guice + Mike Perkins; *CrossGen*) After barely surviving a deflating dirigible, giant Gargoyles, and a marauding Miranda Cross, Simon Archard and Emma Bishop make their long-awaited homecoming. .... \$2.95

**Scion 35** (Ron Marz & Jim Cheung + Don Hillsman II; *CrossGen*) In a world whose medieval culture hides its high-tech roots, a young prince fights to liberate his world. He is Ethan, scion of the Heron Dynasty, bearer of a mark that grants him unmatched power and a chance to make things right. .... \$2.95

**One-shot** **Scion Traveler Vol 1: Conflict of Conscience** (Ron Marz & Jim Cheung + Don Hillsman II; *CrossGen*; tpbk) In an age in which ritual combat has taken the place of real war, Ethan prepares to mark his passage into manhood by participating in his first tournament. Then an incident occurs which changes his life forever – and leads to the first open warfare in generations. 192pg ... \$9.95

**Sigil 35** (Chuck Dixon & Scot Eaton + Andrew Hennessey; *CrossGen*) After centuries of interstellar warfare, the humans of the Planetary Union have a new weapon against the man-eating Saurians. He is Samandahl Rey, galactic mercenary, who wields the world-changing power of the glowing Sigil burned into his chest. Could this interspecies death-match be a prelude for an even more momentous conflict? ..... \$2.95

**Sojourn 22** (Ron Marz & Greg Land + Jay Leisten; *CrossGen*) The quest continues as Arwyn ventures deep into the desert wastes of Oudubai, but her deadliest enemy may not be the sand, the heat or the troll pursuers. .... \$2.95

**Solus 2** (Barbara Kesel & George Pérez + Rick Magyar; *CrossGen*) Audra goes from pulp hero to barbarian warrior, changing identities as she tours the worlds of the Universe in search of herself \$2.95

**Way of the Rat 12** (Chuck Dixon & Jeff Johnson + Tom Ryder; *CrossGen*) The secret to destroying the dragon proves more deadly than the curse. This climax will have sweeping implications for the life of Boon and Po Po as someone close to them dies and another reveals a long-hidden truth. .... \$2.95

## Claypool

**Elvira 120** (Strom + Day & Lachance) The Anti-Elvira Revenge League plans to destroy our Mistress in *Fright and Malice*. b&w ..... \$2.50

**Deadbeats 59** (Richard Howell & Ricardo Villagran) Two women have

been transformed into vampires – and each of them has her own undead agenda. b&w ..... \$2.50

## Drawn & Quarterly

**Louis Riel 10** (Chester Brown) A 19th century rebel leader from the prairies, Louis is on trial for the crime of treason against the Canadian government. His life is on the line in the most violent and unstable period for the country! b&w ..... \$2.95

## DreamWave

**Sandscape 4** (various) Trapped deep within the subterranean city of Espri, Val and Aubrey's hopes are crushed by the invasion of the Paren Cascade. Deeper underground, Val must unlock the secrets of Axeton, the legendary Elder, before Kianna discovers her location! ... \$2.95

**Warlands Vol 3 #6** (various) The army of darkness has hunted down the champions of light. Now slaughter is at hand. But the lost secrets of Warlands' greatest hero may turn the tide. . \$2.95

## El Capitan

**Stray Bullets 31** (David Lapham) After two and a half years, little Virginia Applejack's about to go kicking and screaming all the way to home. Everything's the same, but her mum is filthy rich, owns 17 cats, and has a new boyfriend who's slimmer than the underside of a swamp rock. Mature readers. 24pg b&w ..... \$2.95

## Fantagraphics

**new** **Art & Beauty 1** (R. Crumb) Features 35 portraits of Crumb's ideal feminine forms, and figures that have been at the root of Crumb's id-reflective art from the start. Mature. b&w ..... \$4.95

**Art & Beauty 2** (R. Crumb) Crumb turns his artistic eye towards a special section devoted to portraits of the athletic female figure in action. Mature readers. b&w ..... \$4.95

**One-shot** **Cat on a Hot Thin Groove** (various; hb) The Complete Collection of 78rpm Artwork from the Old Record Changer Magazine by Gene Deitch Collecting all of Deitch's Record Changer covers and "Cat" cartoons. 11 x 14" 160pg ..... \$39.95

**The Comics Journal 252** (various) Contains an exhaustive conversation with John Romita Sr., while Tom Spurgeon chats with the artist about his life, art, and career. Mature readers. 128pg b&w ..... \$6.95

**The Comics Journal Library Vol 2** (ed. Milo George) A collection of interviews with the controversial and influential Frank Miller, drawn from the Journal's 26-year history. 120pg \$18.95

**One-shot** **Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth** (Chris Ware; graphic novel) An improvisatory romance which gingerly ignores all sense of plot and drama. 380pg ..... \$17.95

**Prince Valiant Vol 47: Queen of the Amazons** (Hal Foster & John Cullen Murphy; graphic novel) While travelling through the Middle East, Queen Aleta is ambushed, but saved at the last minute by a mysterious woman who brings her to a hidden valley – home of Petropolis, the City of the Amazons! Collects strips from the years 1977-1978. 48pg ..... \$16.95



## close-up

### Route 666 Vol 1: Highway to Horror

CG Entertainment

Writer: Tony Bedard

Artists: Karl Moline + John Dell

Take a cruel cruise down the *Highway of Horror* with Cassie Starkweather, a young psychic girl who discovers a supernatural invasion is taking place, but only she can see the enemy hidden among us. Branded as a lunatic, Cassie embarks on a lonely one-woman war against the creatures that stole her best friend's soul! 160pg ..... \$15.95

**ON SALE APRIL**



## Image

**new The Agents 1** (Kevin Gunstone & Ben Dunn) Responsible for the destruction of the twin capital cities, the villainous Professor Daedalus has reappeared on the world stage. Suffering from a fatal tumour, Daedalus is offering his 30 years of scientific research for the benefit of mankind. b&w ..... \$2.95

**Aria: The Uses of Enchantment 2** (of 4; Brian Holguin & Lan Medina) Arriving in a mysterious magic kingdom tucked away in the Catskills, Kildare is the guest of honour at a wondrous feast. .... \$2.95

**Athena Inc. Vol 1: The Manhunter Project** (Brian Haberlin & Jay Anacleto; tpbk) Athena Inc., the blackest of black ops, has come up with the perfect operative. She can't be caught. And even if she could be, there is no way to link her to any action because she doesn't even know she's an agent. 240pg ..... \$19.95

**one-shot Battle of the Planets/Thundercats** (Munier Sharrieff & Alvin Lee & Udon; Top Cow) G-Force takes a mission to save a planet that is under attack by Spectra. 48pg ..... \$4.99

**Battle of the Planets 9** (Munier Sharrieff & Wilson Tortosa; Top Cow) Mark vs Zoltar. .... \$2.99

**one-shot Battle of the Planets: Mark** (Munier Sharrieff) Colonel Cronus is a famous war hero whose aerial prowess is world renowned. Mark, the leader of G-Force, idolises Cronus while simultaneously hating his own father for abandoning him. But no one is perfect and there are secrets that even our heroes hide – even men as great as Colonel Cronus. .... \$2.99

**one-shot Battle of the Planets Battle Book** (Jason Hoffieus; Top Cow) Get inside Chief Anderson's files to read the inside scoop on your favourite Battle of the Planets characters, and learn more about the world of G-Force! 48pg \$4.99

**one-shot Bunker** (Bruce Mutard; graphic novel) See *Close-Up*, above.

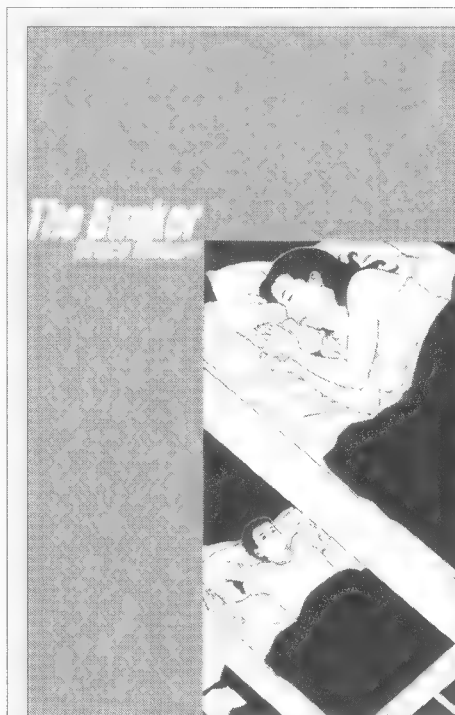
**Clockmaker 3** (of 12; Jim Krueger & Matt Smith + Zach Howard) Astrid discovers that her father's and brother's deaths may not have been an accident as she comes under attack from a creature spawned in the pits below the clockworks. .... \$2.50

**Defiance 7** (*The Scabbard 3* of 4; Douglas Barre & Kano Kang + Zack Suh) Sipher, the Devil's daughter, is the key to stopping Satan's plans for universal dominion, but when she's attacked by Dirge and his army of demons with only a retired Hellion and a dead man to protect her, she runs away. .... \$2.95

**Firebreather 4** (of 4; Phil Hester & Andy Kuhn + Andy Kuhn) Duncan finds himself trapped between two lives. Too humane to succeed in his father's world of conquest and battle, but too feral for the world of men, he abandons both and flees into the wilderness. .... \$2.95

**G.I. Joe 17** (Josh Blaylock & Brandon Badeaux + John Larter) During his seven year absence running from the United States government, Cobra Commander found sanctuary with others like him. Unknown to them, he was converting their troops to rebuild the Cobra army. .... \$2.95

**G.I. Joe Frontline 7** (Dan Jolly + Drew Johnson & Tom Feister + Ray Snyder) Still trapped inside the frozen arctic base with an unknown number of savage, bloodthirsty creatures, four of the Joes – Duke, Snake Eyes, Scarlett, and Frostbite – discover clues to the single human survivor lost somewhere deep within the caverns below the complex. .... \$2.95



## close-up

## Bunker

Image Comics

Writer/Artist: Bruce Mutard

Getting through school is hard enough without being in love with the girl next door, especially when she only likes you as a friend. Jason has this problem with Annie, but when late one night she sneaks into his bedroom asking to sleep over in his bunk bed because she is afraid of a ghost in her room, he thinks his luck is about to change. Alas, some mysterious shadow has fallen over Annie and their friendship starts to feel the strain. b&w 96pg ..... \$9.95

ON SALE APRIL

**Grrl Scouts: Work Sucks 3** (of 4; Jim Mahfood) The reality of real jobs sets in as the Grrls settle into their new lifestyles. b&w ..... \$2.95

**new Heirs of Eternity 1** (Jose L. Torres & Jae Tsai + Jim Royal) When five beings take up this sword, they find that perhaps it is more than any one of them can handle. \$2.95

**Hellspawn 24** (Steve Niles & Ben Templesmith; Todd McFarlane Productions) Living as a semi-human, the Hellspawn has enjoyed an almost-normal life. Now the shadow has him and it will not let go. Will the Hellspawn escape or will he live to serve the darkness and take Earth with him? ..... \$2.50

**Invincible 4** (Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker + Bill Crabtree) Mark's life begins to take shape, as climactic events and situations cause him to rethink his regular course of action. .... \$2.95

**Jack Staff 2** (Paul Grist) 20 years ago, Jack Staff fought Hurricane, the British Army's unstoppable secret weapon, to a standstill. It was the most violent battle Castletown had ever witnessed. 20 years on and the violence returns to the streets of Castletown. .... \$2.95

**Karza 3** (of 4; Jim Krueger & Steve Kurth + Ray Snyder) Ryan Archer and the mysterious Time Traveller witness Karza's rise to power only to find that forces are conspiring in the future to keep them from changing the past. .... \$2.95

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**Mythstalkers 2** (Douglas Barré & Jiro) The Mythstalkers' journey to the Labyrinth at Crete takes an unfortunate turn as they encounter the ghost pirates known as The Cheated. Of course, that's not nearly as badass as being shipwrecked on the island of the legendary Cyclops. .... \$2.95

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**Sammy: Tourist Trap 3** (of 4; by Azad) Having finally learned the truth about who is behind his recent woes, Sammy takes it upon himself to exact revenge on

those responsible in his own particular idiom. b&w ..... \$2.95

**Savage Dragon 110** (Erik Larsen) Lost in Dimension-XII! The Dragon and his family are hurled into the Void and must fight for their lives against the deadly menaces found therein. .... \$2.95

**Shadows 2** (Jade Dodge & Matt Camp) When information of a menacing threat is brought to their attention, the team must decide if saving the life of one is worth risking their own. .... \$2.95

**new Soul of a Samurai 1** (of 4; Will Dixon) The journey begins when the eldest son in a samurai family forsakes rank and duty in favour of spiritual quest. Soon the repercussions from such a rash decision become clear, but it is too late to turn back. 48pg b&w ..... \$2.95

**Spawn 133** (Brian Holguin + Todd McFarlane & Angel Medina + Danny Miki; Todd McFarlane Productions) Held captive in a rotting prison in a distant war-torn nation, a broken and battered Al Simmons clings desperately to life. He came here to kill a tyrant – a tyrant he had a hand in making – but so far things haven't gone as planned. .... \$2.50

**Strangers 2** (of 6; Randy Lofficier & Manuel Garcia) In the orbiting space station, Homicon, Starlock and Futura join the forces of Clash to do battle with Astaroth who plots to blackmail Earth with the deadly weapons stored in its cargo. .... \$2.95

**Tech Jacket 6** (Robert Kirkman & E.J. Su) With the Geldarian/Kresh war resolved, Zack is trying to settle back into his normal teenage life on Earth. It's a tough transition, especially when you're under constant attack! .... \$2.95

**Rising Stars: Bright 3** (*Civilian Casualties 3* of 3; Fiona Avery & Dan Jurgens + Jason Gorder; Top Cow) Matthew Bright has been set-up by The Shepherd of Death, the serial bomber terrorising the streets of New York. \$2.99

**Tomb Raider 29** (John Ney Reiber & Gerardo Sandoval + Jonathan Seib; Top Cow) Lara's back. In her absence, her nemesis, Lord Vymes has laid claim to everything she ever owned or held dear. But Lara has just been to hell and back and nothing is going to stop her from coming for Vymes and taking back what is hers. This is personal! .... \$2.99

**Tomb Raider Journeys 12** (*Settling Old Scores 12* of 12; Fiona Avery & Manny Clark + Mario Alquiza; Top Cow) Lara Croft returns from the Maori

Underworld with information about her mentor's killer, Carleton. .... \$2.99

**Venture 4** (Jay Faerber & Jamal Igle) Venture is attacked by his arch-enemy, Argus. So why has he never heard of this guy before? And will an appearance by a vacationing Celeste Noble help – or hinder – Reggie's plans for Joe? \$2.95

**one-shot Whiz Kids 1** (various) It's Spring Break and the fab foursome head for Florida for fun in the sun, but find a commotion in the ocean as the villainous Great Black Shark is kidnapping vacationing college students and pressing them into slavery! 48pg b&w ..... \$4.95

**Witchblade 64** (David Wohl & Francis Manapul + Jason Gorder; Top Cow) As Sara and Magdalena dig deeper into the mysterious homicide, they find themselves embroiled in the mysterious world of the Kabbalah. .... \$2.99

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**one-shot Mr Gum** (Mike Allred & J. Bone Mike) A blast of superhero whimsy, from two of comics' finest madmen. 24pg ..... \$2.99

**one-shot Mutant, Texas: Tales of Sheriff Ida Red** (Paul Dini & J. Bone; tpbk) The sleepy town of Mutant, Texas, has had its share of disasters, some of which have caused them to... well, mutate. When their special features catch the eye of a travelling freak show, it's down to Ida Red to find out who is attempting to harm the people of her town. 128pg b&w ..... \$11.95

**one-shot Atomic City Tales II: Doc Phantom** (Jay Stephens; tpbk) This volume goes deeper into the oddball back streets of Atomic City, exposing the terrible insecurities of rockabilly superhero Big Bang. 88pg b&w \$12.95

**new Three Strikes 1** (various) The Skinwalker team is back! For every action there's an equal reaction. Ray's a good kid who's made some mistakes. Noah's an ex-cop who became a bondsman in a failed attempt to save his marriage. One choice is about to send both their lives into chaos. Mature readers b&w (1 of 5) .... \$2.99

**one-shot Visitations** (Scott Morse; graphic novel) When a woman having a crisis of conscience enters a church seeking guidance, a kindly priest uses a newspaper to show her examples of a divine hand guiding our lives. 96pg ..... \$8.95

**Midnight Mover 2** (of 4; Phillips + Love & Wasson) Danny Shaw was on the move, running from a murder investigation and from his past. Unfortunately, he didn't go fast enough or far enough and now he's in the custody of the LAPD. Mature. b&w ..... \$2.99

**Three Days in Europe 5** (of 5; Antony Johnston & Mike Hawthorne) Pete Dollar has brought Jill to his Paris concert which means Jack has to find a way into the sold-out show! Mature. b&w \$2.99

## Tokyopop

**new Battle Royale Vol 1** (of 5; Koshun Takami; graphic novel) In the future, random Junior High School classes are chosen to compete in a game called Battle Royale. The rules: only one student can survive after three days on an island or else they all perish. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**new Demon Diary Vol 1** (of 4; Jee-Hyung Lee; graphic novel) Gods and demons wage a never-ending battle with the mortal realm as their battlefield. But it is foretold that one will arise who can restore harmony between



gods and demons. Enter Raenel, heir to a set of demon royalty. 192pg b&w \$9.99

**Digimon** Vol 2 (of 12; various) Now that every Digimon except Patamon has Digivolved, the Digidestined kids become the targets of the powerful and cruel Devimon. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**one-shot Erika Sakurazawa's Angel** (Erika Sakurazawa; graphic novel) For some people in distress, an angel is occasionally sent down to lend a guiding hand. Moving tales of sadness and humour that give insight to a world that could very well be your own. Mature readers. b&w ..... \$9.99

**new Fake** Vol 1 (of 7; various; graphic novel) Ryo and Dee, two of New York City's finest, are called in to investigate the activities of some two-bit street punk. Mature. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Gatekeepers** Vol 2 (of 7; Keiji Gotoh; graphic novel) Reiji is determined to destroy the Gatekeepers and goes to battle against the might of Shun Ukiya's psychic warriors. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**GTO** Vol 11 (of 25; Tohru Fujisawa; graphic novel) Onizuka is on the verge of being banished from Holy Forest and Miyabi and crew are to blame. 200pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Kare Kano** Vol 3 (of 13; Masami Tsuda; graphic novel) Things are going well for Yukino and Soichiro. They have accepted each other for who they are, and have truly become boyfriend and girlfriend. 200pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Love Hina** Vol 10 (of 14; Ken Akamatsu; graphic novel) Naru and Keitaro take their first steps in the high-tension game of love when a power outage puts Hinata House in the dark. 200pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**new Man of Many Faces** Vol 1 (of 2; CLAMP; graphic novel) The story begins with Akira as a third grader, who lives with his two mothers and is ordered to steal bizarre items at

their whim. When he's forced to hide from the police, he takes refuge in the room of a young girl, who promptly falls in love with him. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Mars** Vol 10 (of 15; Fuyumi Soryo; graphic novel) Now that Rei and Kira are an official couple, Kira experiences a refreshing taste of freedom for the first time in her life. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Miracle Girls** Vol 9 (Nami Akimoto; tpbk) The twins make a daring escape from Mr X's laboratory, and Marie and Emma are reunited at last. However, an argument has left Toni and Mika unable to use their teleportation powers and the pair is left stranded. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**new Power Rangers Ninja Storm Cinemanga** Vol 1 (of 3; Katsuhiko Otomo; graphic novel) Tells the story of three rebellious students, who are the last ones remaining at their ninja academy after evil aliens attack the Earth. 100pg ..... \$9.99

**Priest** Vol 6 (Min-Woo Hyung; graphic novel) Belial Gabarre thought his faith was unbreakable. He was wrong. When an agent of Temozarella corrupts Belial's own son, he loses faith, but rather than join Temozarella, he gives his soul to the Lord of Darkness himself in order to fight Temozarella. 184pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Ragnarok** Vol 7 (of 10; Myung Jin Lee; graphic novel) Himmelmeez, a necromancer with the power to turn anyone into the living dead with his touch, has turned Matthew into a mindless zombie. 200pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Reality Check** Vol 2 (of 2; Tavisha Wolfgarth & Rosearik Rikki; graphic novel) One day Collin and Catreece happen upon an escaped computer rabbit named Riggi. Before Collin knows what's happening, Riggi starts up the largest Internet company ever. 180pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Rebirth** Vol 2 (of 11; Kang-Woo Lee; graphic novel) Kalutika, once an agent of

goodness, now uses Light Magic in his plot for domination. Deshwit is the only one who can possibly stand against him, but as proven 300 years ago, his Dark Magic is unable to defeat Kalutika. 176pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**Scryed** Vol 2 (of 5; Yosuke Kuroda & Yasunari Toda; graphic novel) When Ryuhou confronts Kazuma, he is shocked to learn about the savage acts of George Tatsunani, but nevertheless intends to fulfill his duty as an officer of HOLY and arrest the reckless Alter User. 192pg b&w ..... \$9.99

**The Skull Man** Vol 6 (Kazuhiro Shimamoto & Shotaro Ishinomori; graphic novel) Rasputin has captured Detective Hioka and Maria and holds them hostage in his command base. Hioka is subjected to Rasputin's psychic attacks but is so morally resolute that he is able to withstand them. 200pg b&w ..... \$9.99

## INTERNATIONAL

### Black Library

**Warhammer Monthly** 67 (various) Kal Jerico blasts into action in *Above and Beyond*. There's also more treachery and betrayal as Bloodquest continues to push the boundaries in a 12 page instalment. 40pg b&w ..... \$3.50

**Titan Vol 3: Cold Steel** (various) Imperius Dictatio, god-machine of death and war. From this mighty weapons platform worlds are conquered and whole planets are claimed in the name of the great and immortal Emperor. Princes Hekate and his crew now has to battle against the insidious forces of Chaos in all corners of the galaxy. 80pg b&w ..... \$10.95

## UK NEWSSTAND

### DC Thomson

**The Beano** 3159-3162 (weekly; various) Humour anthology featuring Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids, and all your favourites. .... £0.55

**Beano Superstars** 136 (various) One complete strip of the long-running humour anthology. 36pg ..... £0.65

**Classics from the Comics** 83 (various) Anthology reprinting classic cartoon strips from DC Thomson's vintage kids' comics Beano and Dandy. 68pg b&w ..... £1.20

**Commando Action and Adventure Stories** 3605-3612 (eight per month; digest; various) Featuring one self-contained comic strip per issue. Some new material. 68pg b&w ..... £0.80

**The Dandy** 3192-3195 (weekly; various) Humour strips from DC Thomson's longest-running comic, starring Desperate Dan, Cuddles & Dimples, Beryl the Peil, Spotted Dick and Korky the Cat. .... £0.55

**Football Picture Story Monthly** 407-408 (fortnightly; digest; various) Contains one self-contained footie story per issue. 68pg b&w ..... £0.80

**Fun-Size Beano** 133-134 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from the Beano featuring Dennis the Menace, and all the usual suspects. 68pg ..... £0.60

**Fun-Size Dandy** 134-135 (fortnightly; various) Pocket-sized spin-off from The Dandy featuring Desperate Dan, and many more favourites. 68pg ..... £0.60

### Panini Comics

**Action Man** 83 (four-weekly; various) All-new soldier adventure yarns, plus

quizzes and prizes based on the action figure. 28pg ..... £1.50

**Astonishing Spider-Man** 96 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Official UK outing for US Marvel comic adventures, with free posters and extras. 76pg ..... £2.40

**Doctor Who Magazine** 326 (four-weekly; various) Contains celebrity interviews, feature articles and original stories based on everybody's favourite doc. 52pg ..... £3.30

**Essential X-Men** 96 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) This issue contains material from US editions Giant Sized X-Men #1 and Uncanny X-Men #358. 76pg ..... £2.40

**Spectacular Spider-Man** 91 (eight-weekly; various) All new comic strips, puzzles and games. Plus, if you're good, a bunch of free posters and a competition. 36pg ..... £1.75

**Wolverine & Gambit** 82 (four-weekly; various; Marvel UK) Compiles US Marvel's own brand of Wolverine comic strips plus magazine-style feature articles on the tortured toothy one. 76pg ..... £2.40

## Rebellion

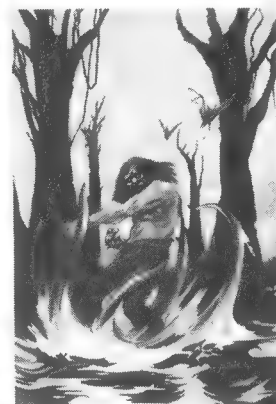
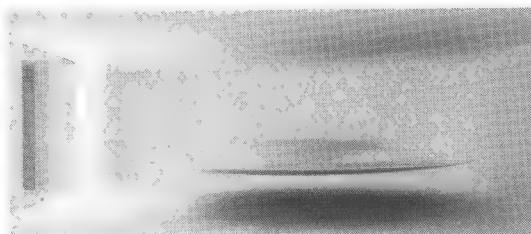
**2000 AD** 1334-1338 (various) Judge Dredd versus Aliens: Incubus reaches its acid-spraying end. Star-troopers The V.C.s discover a threat to Earth that could destroy the planet. Alien allied forces attempt to defeat the deadly UOS in *Atavar II*. Plus, the *ABC Warriors* return. .... \$3.25

**Judge Dredd Megazine** 205 (various) The return of the Tartan Terror himself in Young Middenface: Mutoia. Also, Devlin Waugh: Red Tide; Family; and Black Siddha: Bad Karma. 100pg ..... \$10.99



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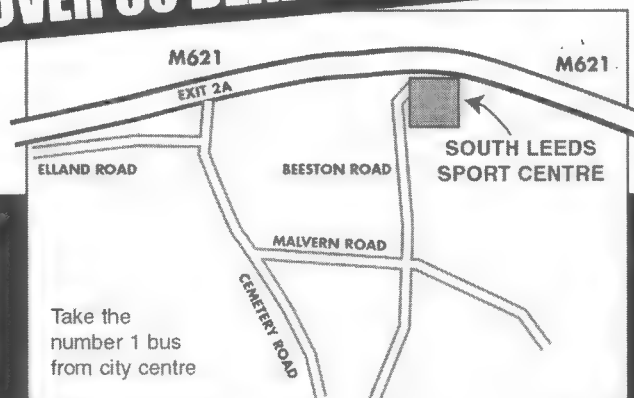
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# Comment

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Comment is a forum to enable fans and professionals alike to express their personal points of view on aspects of the comics industry. As such, the following opinions do not necessarily reflect those of this publication, but space will be given in subsequent issues to well-reasoned opposing views. Submissions are edited only for grammar, clarity and brevity.

## All sitting comfortably? Then letters begin...

Comment by Neil Madle, via e-mail

OPEN any Marvel comic during the mid to late-'70s and you'd almost certainly see a letter from the prolific Edward B. Via of Roanoke. Not a name to set the industry alight, but an overly familiar feature of Marvel's letters pages nonetheless.

Today, with myriad on-line reviews replacing the lost art of letter-hacking and with most companies choosing to axe letters pages so they can squeeze in another incomprehensibly obscure ad for the latest moronic video game, my mind goes back to the days when the letters page was as good a reason for buying a Marvel comic as the story itself and when you'd feel cheated if the column was dropped for some spurious and unwarranted reason, such as an extra story page.

I recall reading comments from a Marvel assistant editor from the '70s (Mark Evanier, I think) to the effect that editors would occasionally fabricate letters to fill space. This has always seemed unlikely to me, as so many of the prolific letter writers of my youth went on to play a part in the industry itself and quite clearly existed as entities beyond the narrow confines of an armadillo's imagination.

The ubiquitous Ed Via may be an exception, as I was never entirely convinced he really existed. Nobody's that prolific, and if I were to make up letters – and believe me, during my journalistic days I was not averse to fabricating fulsome letters of praise for some sketchy article I'd knocked up without leaving the office – I'd probably choose an inoffensive little monicker like 'Ed Via'.

Ever since Roy Thomas had a letter printed in *Fantastic Four* #4, there's been a great tradition of regular letter writers entering the industry. Just as lettercols from the late-'60s would see plenty of offerings from Paul Gambaccini, Doug Moench, Don McGregor, Alan Kupperberg, Tom Orzechowski and so on, their '70s equivalents were J.M. DeMatteis, Kurt Busiek, Jo Duffy, Bill Blyberg and Ralph Macchio.

Over at DC, few '70s lettercols missed the odd entry from Mike

Barr, Bob Rozakis, David Michelinie or Marty Pasko. Other regular contributors went on to set up their own comics companies (Dean Mullaney, Cat Yronwode) or became involved in fanzines (Kim Thompson).

Peter Sanderson, who dealt in voluminous essays rather than plain old letters, ended up as Marvel's chief continuity archivist for a while – indeed, he may still be, as I've lost touch with the comings and goings at the House of Ideas in the last few years. Bob Rodi, who always made a big play about only writing one letter a year but seemed to be in almost every lettercol, may well be the same fellow as soon-to-be-Elektra writer Robert Rodi. Whatever, these guys wrote serious letters in the days when two – and sometimes even three – pages would be given over to their heartfelt opinions.

Every now and then, sad bastard that I am, I get to thinking about the others; those names that popped up month in, month out and of whom nothing more has been heard, including Sam Hays, Larry Twiss, Brian Earl Brown, Jana Hollingsworth, Ann Nichols, Elizabeth Holden, Jackie Frost, Bruce Canwell, Shirley Gorman, Mike Christiansen, Lester Boutillier, Beppe Sabatini, Gregg Stamey, and the improbably named T.E. Pouncey. What did these idealistic young souls do with their lives? If any of you are out there and still breathing under your own volition, let us know.

Then there were the *noms de plumes*: Commander Quotey, Verde, Marveriter and most famously (if that's the right word) T. M. Maple. Again, my recollection is fuzzy, but I vaguely recall reading somewhere that The Mad Maple was a Canadian called Jim Burke, who died tragically young of cancer.

As time passed, letter columns became less compulsive. At Marvel, the informed and intellectual offerings from the '70s were replaced by brief, insubstantial plaudits as Jim Shooter and Tom DeFalco succeeded in dumbing down the company through much of the

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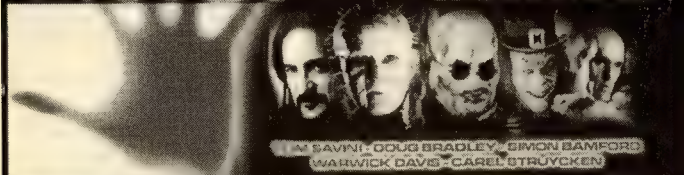
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## Prologue

Well, you waited, you were patient and here it is, the new and improved Spring 2003 FPI Back Issue catalogue. We have now assembled a new team producing the catalogue you hold in your hands and will be bringing out at least 4 copies this year, with possible extra mini catalogues to keep you fully updated on your reading.

Over the next few issues we are hoping to make some changes to the layout and content, and would like you to send us any of your ideas for possible improvements so as to make your comic buying experience a more enjoyable one.

As a comic book fan for most of my life now, being asked to produce this catalogue was not only a chance for me to read as many comics as I wanted (A fanboy's dream come true), but it also gives me a opportunity to offer my opinions to a wider range of fans. Which means that most of the front covers that I have pictured are comics that I have read and would recommend, either due to being a fan of the character, artist, writer or overall story. As time goes on I will write more editorials on featured comics.

The Important thing though is to read. Read what you enjoy and enjoy what you read. Never be afraid to experiment. At our prices you can afford to.

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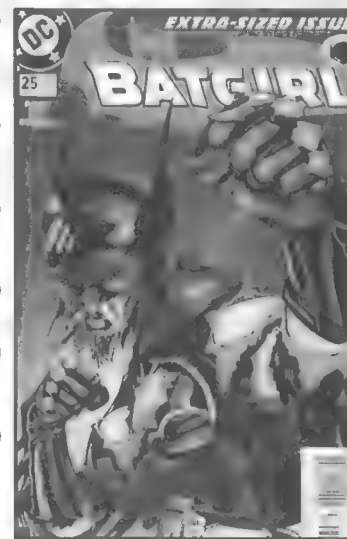
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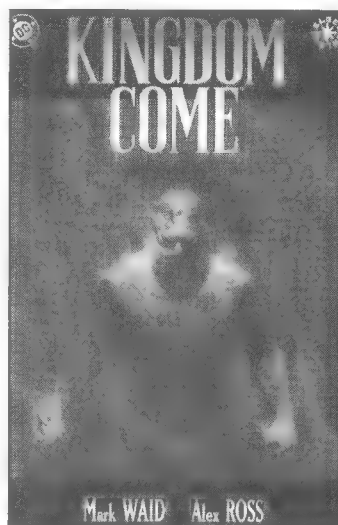
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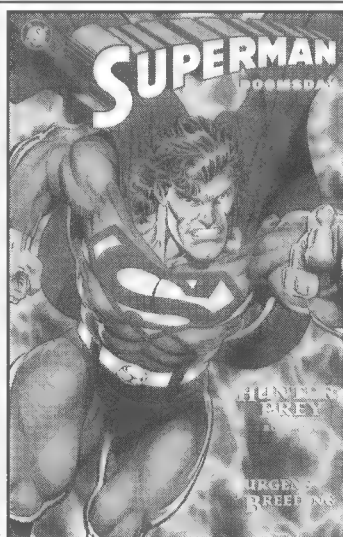
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| DC747D:<br>TEAM TITANS:<br>Redwing<br>1 .....£0.40                | DC756: THRILL<br>KILLER (£2.50)<br>1, 3 .....£0.75                                                                               | DC764B:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767Q: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777L: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799F:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824D: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC864: FATE<br>0 .....£0.40                                     |
| DC747E:<br>TEAM TITANS:<br>Terra<br>1 .....£0.40                  | DC756B: THRILL<br>KILLER (£2.50)<br>1, 3 .....£0.75                                                                              | DC764C:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767R: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777M: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799G:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824E: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC865: FLASH<br>0 .....£0.40                                    |
| DC748A: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756P:<br>THRILLKILLER '62<br>Batman/Batgirl<br>1 .....£2.00                                                                    | DC764D:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767S: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777N: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799H:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824F: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC866: GREEN ARROW<br>0 .....£0.40                              |
| DC748B: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764E:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767T: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777O: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799I:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824G: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC867: GREEN LANTERN<br>0 .....£0.40                            |
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| DC748D: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764G:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767V: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777Q: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799K:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824I: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC869: GUY GARDNER<br>0 .....£0.40                              |
| DC748E: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764H:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767W: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777R: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799L:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824J: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC870: HAWKMAN<br>0 .....£0.40                                  |
| DC748F: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764I:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767X: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777S: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799M:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824K: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC871: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>OF AMERICA<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748G: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764J:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767Y: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777T: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799N:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824L: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC872: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748H: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764K:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767Z: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777U: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799O:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824M: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC873: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748I: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764L:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767A: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777V: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799P:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824N: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC874: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748J: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764M:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767B: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777W: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799Q:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824O: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC875: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748K: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764N:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767C: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777X: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799R:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824P: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC876: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748L: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764O:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767D: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777Y: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799S:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824Q: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC877: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748M: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764P:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767E: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777Z: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799T:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824R: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC878: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748N: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764Q:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767F: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777A: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799U:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824S: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC879: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748O: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764R:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767G: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777B: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799V:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824T: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC880: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748P: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764S:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767H: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777C: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799W:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824U: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC881: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748Q: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764T:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767I: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777D: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799X:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824V: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC882: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748R: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764U:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767J: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777E: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799Y:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824W: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC883: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748S: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764V:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767K: VAMPS:<br>Pumpkin Time<br>1-3 .....£0.75                            | DC777F: VERTIGO<br>VERITE:<br>The Warlord<br>Series 1 9, 17, 24,<br>25, 28-33, 35-44,<br>46-54, 57, 60-62,<br>66, 67, 70, 71, 74-<br>76, 83, 89, 91, 94,<br>96, 100, 120, 132,<br>133 .....£0.75 | DC799Z:<br>WILDCATS:<br>Xenobrood<br>(2001 £5.95) .....£2.25                     | DC824X: WORLD<br>OF METROPOLIS<br>1-4 .....£0.50                            | DC884: JUSTICE LEAGUE<br>TASK FORCE<br>0 .....£0.40             |
| DC748T: TEAM<br>TITANS Annual<br>1, 2 .....£0.40                  | DC756T: TIME<br>BREAKERS<br>(£2.50) 1-5 .....£0.60                                                                               | DC764W:<br>TROUGH<br>MAGNET<br>(Mini series about a<br>reluctant robot)<br>1, 2, 4 .....£0.50                                             | DC767L: VAMPS:<br>Pump                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                  |                                                                             |                                                                 |



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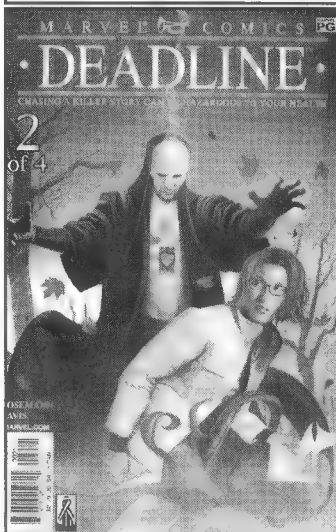
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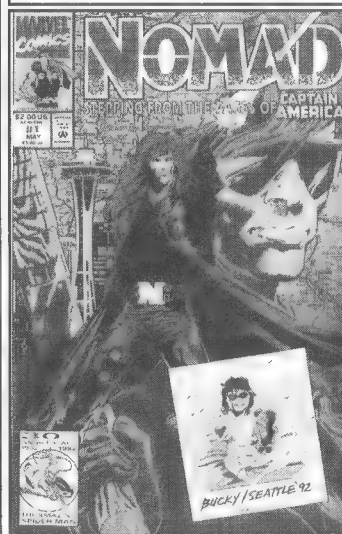
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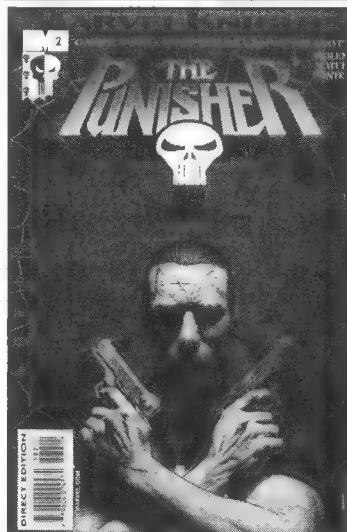
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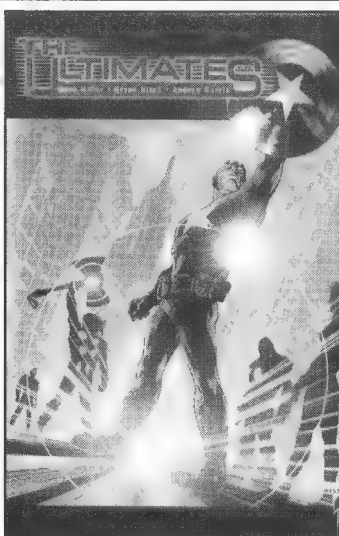


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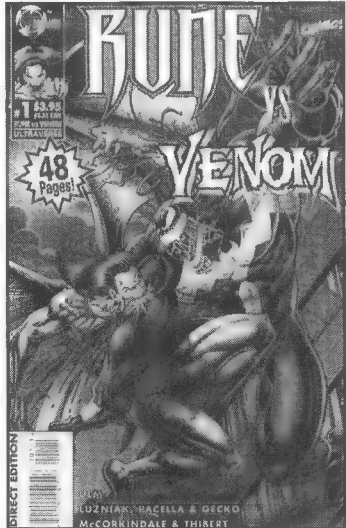


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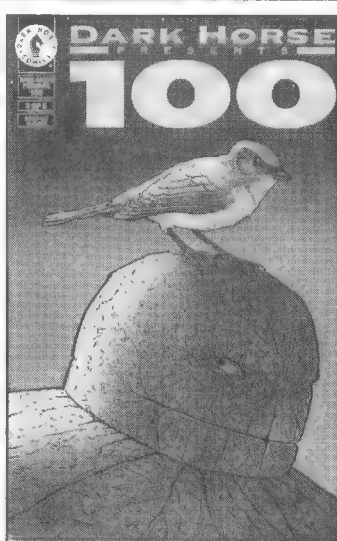
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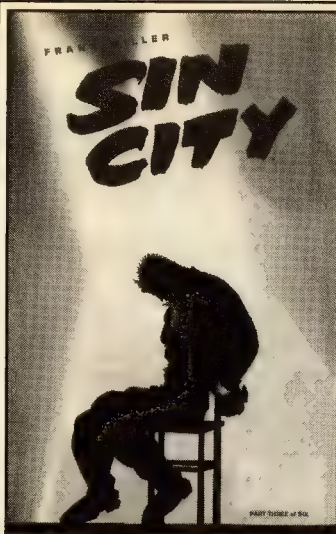
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## EPILOGUE

It's a pretty good time for comics at the moment, this year alone there are no fewer than 4 Comic based films coming out, including the big screen outing for all green skin himself, The Incredible Hulk. As usual, most fans and publishers alike are hoping that this flurry of movies will create an upsurge in comic sales. In my opinion, if jade jaws can't make people buy comics, no one can. Here at FPI we are eager to be the first people called on when you are looking for that vital missed issue or to expand a new fans fledgling collection.

Our comic stock is constantly changing, so if you do miss out on an issue the first time you order it, please, don't be afraid to try again at a later date. Unfortunately due to the level of stock coming and going, we are unable to check the levels of any particular issue number.

So now that you've taken your first glance through our newest issue. Go back look again and re-discover all those lost stories and characters that you once loved. At our prices, could love again and while you're there, see if anything new catches your eye.

Please remember that stock quantities still vary widely, and a list of alternative titles can help us to fulfil more of your needs. So write, e-mail, fax or phone your orders into us. We are here to help you.

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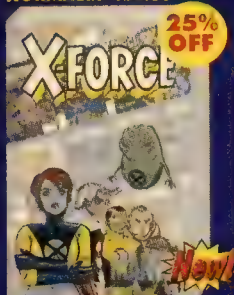


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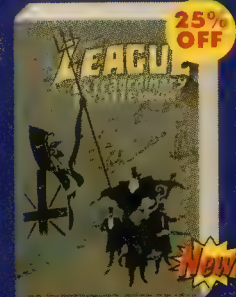
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'80s. Some letter hacks, such as Charles Novinskie and Joe Frank, along with the UK's own Dale Coe and – later – Malcolm Bourne and Rol Hirst, continued to fly the flag nobly, but by and large it was the end of an era for Marvel and one had to turn to DC or the new and exciting independent publishers to read comments of any insight and gravitas.

Recently, lettercols – not only at Marvel but at practically every publisher – have become so poor that their demise is a blessing, like putting down a sick dog.

So, Ed Via, if you're still

hanging out in downtown Roanoke and happen to see this, why not contact CI and verify your existence, finally disproving the scurrilous rumour I've been spreading that you're just an anagram for 'Davie'. Charles David Haskell, it's time to explain why you felt you needed three names when most people get by with two.

And as for the ludicrously monickered Kent Phenix, it's time to step out of the closet and prove you weren't simply a saucy allusion to Superman's sexual habits. You know it makes sense.

## Weird beard feared

Comment by Darren Clarke via e-mail

THE latest cover of *New X-Men* features Wolverine with a suspect triangular beard. Now ordinarily, I have nothing against facial hair, whether it be worn geometrically or not – but something about this beard triggered something off inside me.

As much as I love *Uncanny X-Men* I am starting to feel that they are becoming indistinguishable from *Ultimate X-Men*... which made me think of how many other times the X-Men has inspired something only to end up becoming a self-deprecating parody. It happened first some years back, when the X-titles visited the Age of Apocalypse. Soon after this storyline had ended Marvel was still getting bombarded with letters from eager fans wanting to hear more from the 'AoA' counterparts to the X-Men.

Marvel did not give in at first but then we gradually saw several characters become like their counterparts (for example Wild Child and Sabretooth were paired together in X-Factor just like they had been in 'AoA'). So, in effect the inspiration, the 'original' series had become so direction-less that it felt the need to pilfer ideas from a storyline it itself had created.

Then, some years later when the X-Men movie first appeared Marvel altered the logo and the characters to tie-in with the movie versions more, as well as reintroducing Sabretooth, Mystique and Toad as versions similar to the movie. Now – everyone knows that Marvel failed to cash in on the tie-in with the film, and the expected legions of new readers didn't materialise. So why did Marvel think that changing pre-existing characters into replicas of their movie doppelgangers would help? All it seemed to do was detract from those who were already X-Men fans – kind of like first time buyers getting a better rate of mortgage than those loyal to the building societies for years!

And again we now see the X-Men mutating into a replica of itself. But maybe it should, because the *Ultimate X-Men* title is by far its sister book's superior in every

way. Colossus can be seen very much alive, Beast is still drawn exactly how he is supposed to be (and how fans for years have loved him) not drawn like a blue lion with hooves, the action and characterization is top notch and we still have a nice tight, compact team, without hundreds of new mutants characters that show up for six issues then disappear.

I am extremely critical of X-books because they are my favourite characters, and always have been. And my memory is strong enough to remember the likes of John Romita Jr, Arthur Adams, Paul Smith, Mark Silvestri, Walter Simonson, some kid named Joe Quesada, Larry Stroman, Chris Claremont, John Byrne, Whilce Portacio, Jim Lee etc.

It's like a roll call of the greats from the last 20 years of Marvel and there's a reason why – because the X-titles have been Marvel's top books for many years. But with tour-de-force reinterpretations of Daredevil, Captain America and Spider-Man nipping at their heels, it seems Marvel's mighty mutants may dry up unless a real creative kickstart happens pretty soon.

Grant Morrison has certainly had an impact, when twinned with Frank Quitely, but I haven't experienced the true unification of art/writing and creative spark that I had hoped for.

If the X-Men continue to be influenced by their own internal creations they may find themselves victims of their own success. I know many people who have either dropped X-books or are on the precipice. I am loyal and will stick with them through all the crap, but that gets tough, and we true X-fans see little light at the end of the tunnel.

If the X-Men were a band that I had loved and followed for years and suddenly they released a real dire piece album – I wouldn't buy it. So what makes me continue to buy X-Men every month? Nostalgia? The hope of something better? Or maybe I have endured so many bad issues over the past five years that the law of averages demands that a change may be coming... again.

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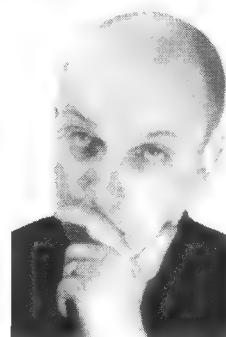
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## 21st century launches and splashdowns

**Beyond 2000 by David Bishop**

*Rants and raves from Egmont's ex-Tharg*



BY THE time you pick up this issue of *Comics International* the *Daredevil* movie will have opened at a cinema near you. As mentioned in previous columns, there's a rash of films based on Marvel Comics' characters coming this year. Following the success of *Spider-Man*, *X-Men* and *Blade*, you'd have expected Hollywood to put icons from DC Comics like Superman or Batman on the fast-track to your local multiplex too. But it seems unlikely any film starring either of those characters will reach the silver screen before 2004.

The Superman movies were a big hit in the 1970s and early 1980s, but the franchise died after four films. Batman did even better box office for several years from 1989, but director Joel Schumacher and his accomplices strangled that money-spinner by replacing plot and mood with camp overkill. Since the dire *Batman & Robin* in 1997, efforts to revive either franchise have come and gone with monotonous regularity. One proposal even suggested the option of combining the franchises for a Superman and Batman film.

The latest name attached to a possible Batman movie is Chris Nolan, director of *Memento* and *Insomnia*. The idea of Nolan helming the caped crusader is intriguing – but don't hold your breath just yet. Similar hopes were raised when Darren Aronofsky was named as the man to bring Batman back to the big screen. Aronofsky dazzled with his efforts on *Pi* and *Requiem for a Dream*, but his superhero saga seems no closer to fruition. Hopefully Nolan's project will not join those already trapped in development hell.

### Tsunami: a tidal wave of hype

Ten years ago the speculator boom saw every other company establish its own superhero imprint. A decade on, two new lines of comics are being launched. Marvel is unleashing Tsunami, best described as a tidal wave of hype for a disparate bunch of projects. By grouping them together under one banner, the self-proclaimed House of Ideas is obviously hoping the stronger titles will lend the weaker efforts some extra punch in the marketplace. Joe Quesada says the new books include both, "Fresh new, never-before-seen concepts" and "a refocused energy on some classic favourites."

Now let's compare reality to the hype. Of the five titles solicited for April, three are new versions of established characters – **Human Torch**, aka Jonny Storm from *The Fantastic Four*, Spider-Man's old enemy **Venom** and X-Men villain **Mystique**. So far, so familiar. The two other books in the bunch are **Sentinel** and **Runaways**. The former features a teenage boy who discovers and befriends a mutant-hunting Sentinel robot. Wow, that is original! It certainly bears no resemblance at all to the 1999 animated film *The Iron Giant*, about a boy who discovers and befriends a giant



Above: Joseph Michael Linsner's cover art to *Mystique* #1, part of Marvel's Tsunami imprint



robot. Of course, that was adapted from a 1968 novel by British poet Ted Hughes, entitled **The Iron Man** (no relation to Tony Stark). So it seems **Sentinel** is more classic favourite than fresh and new.

Perhaps **Runaways** is the Tsunami comic that features never-before-seen concepts? Marvel's promo blurb describes it as "Smallville meets *Harry Potter*." Somehow that doesn't seem like a fresh, new or never-before-seen concept. It sounds more like another generic teenagers-in-jeopardy tale. Still, you shouldn't damn a comic from one ill-chosen phrase in **Previews**, tempting as that might be. Scribe Brian K. Vaughan is winning plaudits for his work on **Y: The Last Man** for Vertigo, so hopefully he can make **Runaways** match the hype surrounding it.

The other new line is Rocket Comics from Dark Horse, a fistful of titles with a distinctly science fiction flavour. It comes as no surprise to find writer Stuart Moore among the creators working on this initiative. Moore was editor of DC's *Helix* imprint that tried to make a success of science fiction comics in the 1990s. The only survivor to crawl from the wreckage was **Transmetropolitan** by Warren Ellis and Darick Robertson.

Dark Horse is to be applauded for trying to break free from its straitjacket of reprints and licensed titles like **Star Wars** and **Buffy the Vampire Slayer**. Hopefully Rocket will have more success than the ill-fated *Helix*.

### "Three wheels on my bandwagon..."

The nostalgia bandwagon seems to be slowing down after last Summer's brief boom. Only **Transformers** could maintain a place in direct-market distributor Diamond's Top 20 for February, while the likes of **Battle of the Planets** and **Robotech** are rapidly disappearing down the rankings. Novelty and nostalgia will only get you so far. After that you have to start creating comics people actually want to read.

### DC: Divisional Chasm

The February rankings provide plenty of interest if you read between the lines. The Jim Lee effect is keeping **Batman** as the number one comic. That's great news for DC, but the other Bat-titles attract less than a third of **Batman**'s numbers.

Orders continue to grow on **Y: The Last Man** and **Fables** thanks to positive word of mouth. Both have now overtaken Grant Morrison's **Filth** as Vertigo's leading titles. **100 Bullets** may have won a fistful of awards last year but the title's momentum is evaporating. Six months worth of one-off tales featuring various cast members haven't helped its cause.

### All hail the 300

Independent comics icon **Cerebus** is fast approaching the end of its 300-issue odyssey. Expect significant retrospectives when this controversial monthly by Dave Sim and Gerhard finally grinds to a halt in March next year. The title dropped off most people's radar when Sim decided to stop hyping the comic, instead choosing to

concentrate his energies on writing and drawing it. As a result **Cerebus** languishes at #198 in the Top 300.

That's 99 places above Britain's own **Warhammer Monthly**. With little fanfare this monochrome anthology has been published for more than five years. In comic shops **Warhammer Monthly** is almost invisible, explaining its ranking of #297 – eight below that of **Blowjob** #5, published by Eros.

But the main market for **Warhammer** is Games Workshop's own stores around the globe. You can be sure the monthly sells more copies than many fan favourites higher placed on Diamond's chart.



Above: Cover artwork for **Runaways** by Jo Chen, written by Brian K. (Y: **The Last Man**) Vaughan.

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## Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER



The mild-mannered creator/writer of the Internet's original comics industry rumour and news column has outraged many a publisher and survived more than one change of website. But, despite several attempts to stop it, the Squiddy Award-winning gutterpress site continues to thrive, with over 20,000 hits a week at its new home of [www.comicbookresources.com](http://www.comicbookresources.com)

From his unique vantage point, Rich often scoops the industry newshounds with his stories. Here are the highlights from this month's Gutter...

### Quitely Quit

I understand that Frank Quitely is officially off **New X-Men** and is currently working on a creator-owned series for Marvel. It's a three issue project, and he'll return to regular superheroics after that.

Quitely's work, while sporadic on **New X-Men**, was instrumental in raising the book's profile when he and Grant Morrison joined, with a fresh style that hadn't been seen before. His artistic flair, originating as it does from the old **Oor Wullie** and **Broons** cartoons, found a strange home in the superhero genre. But Quitely has never been a monthly artist and when his fill-in artists needed fill-ins and Igor Kordey ended up having to draw whole issues in days, while also holding down another monthly gig on **Cable/Soldier X**, something was going to have to give eventually.

### Pros And Cons

*Lying In The Gutters* had reported previously on the new comic conventions being created by Creation to steal WizardWorld's thunder, and their new big convention in Los Angeles this week is supposed to be getting in there before Wizard.

Publicity hasn't been great however, and comicbook professionals – the amount of whom attending often affects a convention's popularity – may well be staying away in droves.

Why? Well, comic pros traditionally get into such shows for free. Not this time, and the convention doesn't mind who knows it. Attempts to get a "pro" or "guest" registration have been met with clueless responses on the phone, and enquirers are told they'll have to buy a table if they work in the industry and want to attend.

A couple of B-listers rang recently and were told "We're tired of you people trying to get in for free. You're not special, you have to pay like anyone else." When asked to speak to a supervisor, because they'd never heard of a con that didn't want pros to attend in number, the manager refused to take the call.

Looks like the word is out and pros aren't going to play ball. WizardWorld may have an opportunity to set up shop before 2006...

### Plum Job

Hunt Emerson is drawing Little Plum in **The Beano**. Okay, while all British readers (should) have their jaws open, let me explain.

**The Beano** is one of the UK's longest running comics, a weekly kids' anthology running pretty much most of the Twentieth century. It stars the British Dennis The Menace (both the American and the British versions were published independently and coincidentally on separate continents. Guess which is the mischievous scamp, and which is the malevolent bullying psychopath?) One recurring **Beano** character is Little Plum, a young Red Indian brave.

Hunt Emerson is one of Britain's most eminent underground cartoonists. Creator of *Firkin the Cat*, artist of *The Goons'* record sleeves and recent famed reteller of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. This is basically the equivalent of Disney hiring Robert Crumb to

*continued on next page...*

# Networks



Comics news and gossip on the Internet

Compiled by Chris Rice and the CI team of Netmites

## Net sightings

### Hang On To Your Egomania

*ALTERNATIVE* comics god Eddie Campbell put the following news up on his website at the beginning of February: I have ceased publishing new work for the foreseeable future.

**Egomania** #2 is the final release from Eddie Campbell Comics.

I conceived **Egomania** in a moment when **From Hell** was bringing in so much revenue that I could afford to indulge myself and put out a magazine which made no compromises to market expectations. I wanted to do a mag made up of my enthusiasms – pure and simple – presented in a precise and attractive typographical setting.

I also wanted it to be such an eclectic mix of stuff that it would confound the comics purists who attempt to oppress and stultify our medium by straight-jacketing it with their definitions and rules. It's time to broaden our vision instead of narrowing it. I knew the thing had no chance in the current market and that the clock was ticking as soon as I started. The collapse of my US distributor last year hurried things to an early conclusion.

**Egomania** #1 and #2 are still available. The latter has the wittiest and most engaging interview with Alan Moore that you will read anywhere. Also, I take pride in the fact that in the eight years since I started self-publishing I have managed to get my entire catalogue, more or less, back into print.

There are the four **Alec**, or auto-biographical books, the nine **Bacchus** books, and the enormous collected **From Hell**. If you haven't picked up **After The Snooter** yet, go and check it out. I put everything into that one and I believe it's the goods.

All of these books and more will continue to be available from Top Shelf Productions, or from

myself. I expect my new serial, **The History of Humour**, will resurface in some way or other. There's a new *Playwright* story by Darén White and myself in the current **Dee Vee** special.



Left: The less-than egomaniacal Eddie Campbell

For the rest of the year I'll be working on a one-off **Batman** book, writing and painting (I seem to have got into this gig by a series of peculiar accidents).

In a way it could be seen as a development of my interview with old **Batman** artist Lew Sayre Schwartz in **Egomania** #1.

I'll also be revisiting **From Hell** territory since the book is set in London in 1939 and involves a complicated mystery and a very eccentric secret society.

I'm enjoying applying myself to the full colour painted pages and escaping

from the travails of dealing with pre-press problems, printing problems, distribution problems and other bureaucratic interruptions that have distracted me from the important work over the last few years.

I won't say more about the project at this stage except that to my surprise I am reinventing myself anew on every page. At the current page (8) it's impossible to imagine how it will look at the end. So look for news on this later in the year.

*Networks* is certainly going to miss the extremely well produced **Egomania**, but the **Batman** book sounds rather interesting.

## MM Rumours

There have been all sorts of rumours and stories in the ongoing Gaiman/McFarlane/Miracleman bizarre love triangle recently.

Firstly, Todd's attention has been distracted by the worst decision he ever made coming back to haunt him. Tony Twist was a brutal mobster character in **Spawn**, seemingly named after a hockey player who then sued Todd for \$24 million. He won, but Todd successfully appealed and the judgment was overturned.

However the **Miami Herald** website is reporting that Twist is appealing this again and it's back in court. In addition, rumour has it that McFarlane is planning to wind up **Spawn** soon, and start work on, yes, **Miracleman**.

The other scuttlebutt, however, is that Marvel will also be soon publishing **Marvelman**, written by Gaiman with art by Mark Buckingham.

Networks wonders maybe whether we could actually end up seeing two different comics, with different names, at two different companies and essentially exactly the same character. It's not entirely unprecedented...

## It's My Ball..!

Alan Donald, who very ably took over our Rich's



All The Rage rumour column on Silver Bullet's website, recently uncovered an interesting little story about legendary **2000 AD** writer Pat Mills.

As some of you will be aware, **2000 AD** has its own fanzine, **Zarjaz**, which features fan-created stories and comics, some of a suprisingly high standard. In fact current **Dredd** vs **Aliens** artist Henry Flint was in early issues.

Rebellion, **2000 AD**'s owner, has given full permission to **Zarjaz** to do this, viewing it as a try-out for potential future artists and writers. However, Pat Mills isn't so happy about it, and recently sent an e-mail to **Zarjaz** editor Andrew Lewis, which Networks has excerpted:

Great cover and I like the whole idea and intention of it. I think it's fine for house characters and, of course, it's terrific for publishers because some of your writers and artists will undoubtedly become a new generation of pros for **2000 AD** which you state is their intention and I wish them well.

But for those of us who do not regard our characters as house characters it means that – although a remote possibility at the moment – if, for instance, I fell out with a **2000 AD** editor or was too busy; or unwell and couldn't write my characters; or I was too expensive, the editor might be in a position to have a new semi-trained writer who had possibly proved himself at writing one of my stories and would

presumably be cheaper.

Because all rights were sold, **2000 AD** publishers are able to do this. It very rarely happens, as publishers and editors are thankfully sensitive to our feelings, especially as writers like myself believe in making our views known loud and clear.

I am extremely militant on this subject because I am aware of "the thin end of the wedge" principle and aggressively protect my rights on Slaine, Nemesis, Finn, ABC Warriors, Ro-Busters, Visible Man, etc. Any indication that a possible writer may be groomed for a future takeover will always meet with a strong, and if necessary, legal reaction from me.

This may seem a little harsh, but the creative process is a long and painful one and I don't believe in giving anyone a free lunch. Naturally new writers need to learn and, of course, you will not be aware of these concerns



Above: Pat Mills' Slaine – not appearing in **Zarjaz** soon.

because publishers and editors have a different perspective to writers and would have no reason to bring it to your attention. But my own feeling is your stories should be purely on recognised house characters or that your writers should create their own characters. Thus I'm not thrilled by the idea of Slaine appearing in **Zarjaz** even though it may well be homage – which I don't accept as a valid reason.

Like many professionals, I also make it a policy not to read things of this nature so that I cannot be influenced by the content – an accusation that is also often levelled at pros by people trying to find their way in. When I started Slaine I had an agreement with the editor that no-one else should ever write this character. This is an agreement I would hold **2000 AD** to today.

Of course **Zarjaz** falls outside this agreement as a fanzine, but I certainly wouldn't like to see Slaine appearing in it again. Sorry I can't be more positive.

Networks must admit it does think Mills is maybe being a tad over-protective, but that's his prerogative.

Unless you wish to read between the lines in his comments about cheaper writers, falling out with editors, publishers and editors being thankfully sensitive to creators feelings and suchlike.

As he knows, there are no securities in being freelance, other than those you make for yourself.

## Rich Johnston's LYING IN THE GUTTER

continued from previous page...

redesign Goofy. Or of S Clay Wilson working on **Archie**. It's mad and brilliant. **The Beano** is available from all good UK newsagents priced at 65p.

### Flood Barrier

The "unfathomable" mention in Marvel's teaser for **Namor** is a reference to longtime Fathom colourist JD Smith, who will be coloring the monthly **Namor** book.

What's slightly worrying, for British readers, is that the recent **Previews** states that **Namor** #1, the 25c promotional issue, will not be made available to the UK. Oh, we'll get issue two alright, no worries, but as for issue one, we can go swivel. This seemed to be the first Diamond UK had heard of it. After all, they'd just sent out solicitation packs to retailers with details for **Namor** #1.

Possibly not the best way to kick off the Tsunami line...

### Dan Didio Goes A'huntin'

Dan Didio, Vice President of DC (yes, another one) has been making moves over the last few months towards Marvel's A-list artists.

John Romita Jr, Bryan Hitch, Adam Kubert, Andy Kubert and more have been offered deals that put other DC artists to shame. Offering triple-highest page rates, matching Marvel salaries – and more – and very flexible schedules and projects of choice. This from a company that has pretty much frozen page rates for several years. At time of writing, all have turned him down. So far. But Didio has said he'll be very persistent. How long can Marvel's top drawer talent hold out?

DC is offering foreign royalties (which Marvel doesn't). But DC have also raided the level at which domestic royalties kick in – currently on the monthlies, only **Batman** counts, both **JLA** and **Green Arrow** being under the line. Combined with traditionally higher page rates, and Marvel's tendency to release trade paperbacks quicker than DC (in both hardcover and paperback), Marvel's bestselling creators earn significantly more than DC's. Indeed, one creator was telling me how his royalties on the first year from one trade paperback were significantly higher than a colleague's numerous trade paperbacks from DC. And another, comparing two high-profile books was surprised to earn hundreds of dollars from the DC trade paperback release, and thousands from the Marvel one.

When you're a lower-profile talent on a lower-profile title DC pays better than Marvel. Hell, **2000 AD** pays better than Marvel. This might be a reason why the upper echelon creators have been going Marvel rather than DC of late. But this is something Dan Didio appears to be tackling head on. He's opening the chequebook.

### Red Suit Warning

Last weekend, a bunch of comics pros got a preview of the upcoming **Daredevil** film. I must admit the trailer – with its gravelly voiceover about justice – didn't exactly win me over. But I've always preferred to hear about the final product. Well, according to these guys, it didn't exactly go down well.

"Abandoning character" moments included **Daredevil** letting a bad guy die in the first 20 minutes, **Daredevil** kissing Elektra, hearing a crime taking place but deciding to ignore it. The scene in a park where Matt and Elektra meet is described as a bad dance number, with the rather skeezy impression that she's basically just beating on a blind man. The characterisation has been described as "cookie cutter" and there's at least one example of "unbelievable adrenaline" when **Daredevil** is so badly injured he's unable to stop one character being killed, yet is so enraged by the death that he has the energy to cross town and take on the two major bad guys.

The conclusion? **X-Men** was like **Godfather II** compared to this... It's a kids' movie, but not a good one.

## Internet comic, e-zine and website reviews

### THE OFFICIAL HULK MOVIE SITE

Another stylish production in Flash, looking like a green version of the **Daredevil** movie site. There's a press conference, the obvious trailer and the interactive "Ask Ang" section, where director Ang Lee will answer all questions (that Universal choose to show him). The polls section scarily reveal that 81% of the fans like The Hulk for his "Aggression" and only 5% for his "Duality." Looks like all that soul-searching Ang angst is out the window then. Not a massive amount posted up at the moment, but with promised sections like "The History" and "The Science" this is one to bookmark and watch. (TP) 7

[www.thehulk.com](http://www.thehulk.com)

### THE WORLD OF DR PARSONS, PhD

Brighton-based James Parsons has been producing his child-like satirical assaults, **This is Me...** for a while now. Victims have included "Victorya Becem" and "Tony Blar", savagely lampooned in autobiographical comics as if they had been written and drawn by a four year-old. Now it's possible to see an animated version of **This is Me** by Georg Bush on the website, and to purchase Parson's latest book, **Tony & Me** by Georg Bush. Savage, hysterical and disturbingly truthful, an essential visit is required. (TP) 8

[www.drparsons.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.drparsons.fsnet.co.uk)

### EDUARDO RISSO OFFICIAL WEBSITE

Eduardo Riso is possibly one of the finest artists working in comics today. His website has a lot of his artwork displayed – including "never-before-seen" try-outs and obscure European work – with much of it for sale. You can even commission Riso to do an illustration at reasonable rates, although this is on hold temporarily. The site needs updating, but is still the best place to get your Argentine artist fix. (TP) 7

<http://risso.redsectorart.com/index.html>

Review Panel: Chris Bunting (CEB), Tom McSweeney (TM) and Tim Pilcher (TP)



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# Reviews

Because few retailers allow titles to be read before purchase, **Comics International's** comprehensive reviews section enables comics readers to keep abreast of the wide range of titles currently being published and draw readers' attention to comics they might otherwise ignore. Naturally, this section is of even greater benefit to readers who rely solely on mail order, as they can only judge the quality of a title after purchase.

**Review codes:** Individual titles are judged against all similar comics past and present on a 1 to 10 basis, while a comparison is made against previous issues of the same title, ranging from <---> to <++++>. Hence, a quality comic may score an 8 against all others, but have slid from a previous issue's 9, denoted by <->. No change is marked <=>. We do not compare **Bone** with **X-Men**, but review each within their genre.

**Review panel:** Chris D. Bowen (CDB), Chris E. Bunting (CEB), Jon Edwards (JE), Kelvin Green (KG), Stephen Hall (SH), David Knight (DK), Andrew Lewis (AL), Scott Montgomery (SM), Lee Nelson (LN), Rob Nott (RN), Leonie O'Moore (LO), Andy Smith (AS), Terence Stewart (TS), Mat Thomas (MT), Alex Thompson (MAT)

## CrossGen

### The Crossovers 1

by Rodi & Mauricet + Colon

A family struggles to juggle everyday matters with their clandestine adventures. While there is humour to be found in Robert Rodi's subversion of comic book clichés, the danger of this gimmick is that the characters themselves become faceless. Mauricet's comic strip style lends an appropriate air of innocuous innocence. (LN) 6

## Dark Horse

### Lone Wolf and Cub Volume 28

by Koike & Kojima

<+> Magnificent. Itto and Retsudo finally settle their feud, with the mortally wounded Itto fighting with a broken sword on a battlefield strewn with the discarded weapons of his dead foes. The back and forth of the battle has an unbelievable tension that is absent in most action comics with similar scenes, and the ending – when it finally comes – is totally unexpected, breathtaking and genuinely moving. Perfect. (MT) 10

### Star Wars: Republic 49

by Ostrander & Duursema

<+> The Star Wars comics finally move into the period of the legendary Clone Wars with this gritty tale of Quinlan Vos and Aayla Secura, two of the more interesting characters to originate in the Star Wars Expanded Universe. As ever, Jan Duursema's artwork is superb, and is enhanced here by Joe Wayne's darkly atmospheric colours. (SH) 8

## DC Comics

### Batman 611

by Loeb & Lee + Williams

<+> Guest stars galore as Jeph Loeb throws absolutely everything at this less-than-gripping thriller. The nicest illustrated instalment yet from Jim Lee and Scott Williams takes the action to Metropolis, where Lois Lane unaccountably talks like a complete moron, Bruce and Selina compare notes atop a speeding cross-town train, and Poison Ivy gets herself some hefty back-up. That business on the train is stylish, and the flashbacks to

attempts to extend his mastery of his own. Fever also meets a sub-hero who persuades her there is heroism in doing nothing – a nod to the oddball characters encountered by the '90s Doom Patrol. Tan Eng Huat's drawing is stunning, capturing facial expressions, rage and frenetic movement. Only the interludes setting up forthcoming plots read unevenly. (DK) 8

<=> Things go from bad to worse for the crumbling team's morale; Fever lies in a coma, Robotman searches for his lost past, Negative Man pushes himself to the limit while beset by the amorous yet mutated Ava, while Fever takes advice from The Purple Purposeless! This title has never been about traditional superheroics, but John Arcudi's take on these dysfunctional D-list heroes has given it an amusing new identity matched only by talented artist Huat's stylish linework. (MAT) 7

### The Flash 193

by Johns & Kolins + Hazlewood

Gorilla Grodd goes on a prison rampage. Scott Kolins and Doug Hazlewood's amazing expressionistic art is perfectly complemented by James Sinclair's colouring, although it is so dark in Iron Heights you need good light to read by. The most exciting issue-length fight scene in a while, with a powerful centre-spread image. (DK) 9

### Global Frequency 3

by Ellis & Dillon; WildStorm

<+> When an infectious alien language possesses an entire city block and counting, an assortment of Global Frequency operatives have to save the population before the Pentagon nukes them all. Top rate

Bruce's childhood get livelier. (DK) 6

<=> Loeb and Lee have taken the Dark Knight back to his rightful place at the top of the charts. This is the best run on Batman since that of Doug Moench and Kelley Jones several years ago. The joy of this storyline is that Loeb is obviously having fun incorporating lots of characters from the DC mythos while exploring the often-neglected Bruce Wayne side of the Batman persona. With Lee's dynamic art, this book is irresistible. (SH) 9

### Doom Patrol 16

by Arcudi & Huat

<+> Fever learns the consequences of being unable to control her powers, while Ted

### Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 162

by Arcudi & Langridge

<+> At one time, this title was a place for top creators to tell innovative and unique Batman stories, but this story arc shows how far the quality has slipped in recent years. John Arcudi's silly and tedious storyline about a washed-up movie comedian hooking up with the Joker is illustrated by Roger Langridge's cartoony and unattractive art. This book really needs to improve, especially considering the fine work currently being done on the three core Batman titles. (SH) 3

A retro-style funny-book two-parter by current Doom Patrol writer John Arcudi and one time Judge Dredd Magazine artist Roger Langridge (*The Straitjackets Fits*). A drunken actor, his delirium haunted by icons of classic film comedy, is press-ganged into taking the starring role in a Joker biopic. A refreshing premise sees the Joker played for laughs and not homicide, for a change. (DK) 6

### Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight 163

<+> In part two of *Auteurism*, Batman is lured to the scene of a fake bank robbery to provide footage for the Joker's movie. An overacting Joker hams it up before making good his escape, twice. Langridge has fun delineating Buddy Kantor's hallucinations of Charlie Chaplin, George Burns and Buster Keaton, as the actor suffers from the DTs. The film becomes a critical success, but ironically its rightful owner goes uncredited. (DK) 7



characterisation, dialogue, pacing, action and suspense from Warren Ellis is matched only by the flawless art of Steve Dillon, helping to make this series one of the best new comics concepts in years. (MT) 8

### Gotham Central 2

by Brubaker + Rucka & Lark

<+> The GCPD races to track down Mr Freeze before night-time when Batman is bound to catch him. This police procedural drama works very well, even when Batman shows up. The pacing and dialogue are spot on, and Michael Lark's downbeat slum style is just right for this book. A winner. (MT) 9

### Gotham Knights 37

by Beatty & Robinson + Floyd

<=> Spoiler is the featured Knight as Bruce allows her to track down a Cobra terrorist armed with a dirty bomb. Clever use is made of her debriefing to explain to readers what she should have spotted, and what on earth was going on in the bits that don't read very well. Of course, Batman had things well in hand all along. Neither particularly involving nor fun. (DK) 5

### Green Arrow 20

by Meltzer & Hester + Parks

Oliver's quest continues, this time to recover something very dangerous left somewhere incredibly risky. A pointless walk-on by a very minor villain, whose fate is apparently sealed, occasions some banter about supervillain accessories clashing with regular trousers. That's about it for laughs. Phil Hester and Ande Parks and colourist James Sinclair deliver the goods on the visuals. And some sort of big revelation is promised for issue 21... (DK) 6

<+> There aren't many books that maintain the same level of quality once a popular writer departs, but Green Arrow hasn't failed to hit the target since Kevin Smith jumped ship. Brad Meltzer continues to delve into Ollie's past with consummate skill, maintaining that fine balance between observing comicbook continuity and not confusing new readers who may be ignorant of the convoluted back story. Green Arrow remains funny, fast-paced and a damn fine read. (RN) 7

### Green Lantern 158

by Winick & Eaglesham + Ramos

<-> Green Lantern goes to an alien planet to help a nomadic race settle down and finds the opportunity for some overly-sentimental moralising, weak action scenes and weaker one liners. The art's not too bad, but Judd Winick totally misses the potential of a character who has a magic ring and can go anywhere. Very poor. (MT) 3

### Harley Quinn 28

by Lieberman & Huddleston + Nixey

<-> Harley continues to be blown up and shot at, sees a few patients in her psychiatry practice, and discovers who set her up to take the fall for a bank job. Story, art and colours provide little light and too much shadow in what used to be a charming funny book. (DK) 4

### Hellblazer 179

by Carey & Fruzini; Vertigo

<=> Mike Carey's handling of John Constantine's niece, Gemma, is one of the



best things to have appeared in Hellblazer for a long time. Here we have a teenage girl desperately wanting to follow in her uncle's footsteps and be a proper Constantine, unaware of the danger such would bring. A wonderful concept, skilfully handled. Carey's writing is sharper than a serpent's tooth, as Willy Shakespeare would say. (RN) 8

## **JSA 44**

by Goyer & Johns  
+ Kirk + Champagne

<> The conclusion to the JSA Egyptian adventure. Having not been enamoured of Leonard Kirk's work on this title, any naysaying is firmly quietened by this issue's exceptional art, illustrating Kirk's potential to portray diversely emotional environments. Need I say more? (CDB) 7

## **Lady Constantine 2**

by Diggle & Sudzuka; Vertigo

<> A character which originated in Sandman teams up with Swamp Thing in a Hellblazer special. It's a fact that only British writers know how to make British characters swear properly, just one of the reasons only they should be let loose on titles such as this. Andy Diggle's well-paced yarn boasts a strong female protagonist, snappy dialogue and a refreshing use of its historical setting. A spin-off which deserves to be so much more than just that, this is very enjoyable from cover to cover. (AL) 8

<> The first issue painted a picture of a difficult and dangerous mission to salvage a sunken ship deep beneath the Arctic Ocean, so it's a bit of a let down when Johanna accomplishes the task with a twitch of her nose and a little hocus pocus. A little more conniving and skulduggery would have been welcome, but that aside the story remains interesting enough to not disappoint the casual reader. But this is not a patch on its big brother, Hellblazer. (RN) 6

## **Mek 3**

by Ellis  
& Rolston + Gordon; Homage

<> Reading somewhat like the out-takes from Warren Ellis's Transmetropolitan, this three-parter has certainly been worthwhile. Ironically this closing chapter is less satisfying than the previous two, as a matter of fact I didn't know this was the last issue until I got to the last page. The concepts certainly would have sustained another three issues without risk of boredom. Steve Rolston and Al Gordon's unfussy art works for the most part, but is jarringly less effective in the more graphically violent moments. (AL) 7

## **Nightwing 77**

by Grayson & Zircher + Delperdang

<> As tension rises in the Bludhaven P.D. a rookie tight-fighter adds to the workload for Nightwing. Totally enjoyable series so far under Devin Grayson's watch and former Thunderbolt artist Patrick Zircher relieves Manco for a break, keeping the quality high on the retired Robin's rollercoaster. (CDB) 8

## **100 Bullets 41**

by Azzarello + Rizzo; Vertigo

<> Agent Graves meets with three members of the Trust to discuss revenge for the killing of the Minutemen in a suitably convoluted way and a young couple are faced with a moral dilemma. The slice of life subplot is actually more engaging than the main plot in

## **Superman & Batman: Generations III**

by Byrne

Say what you like about John Byrne — and he's had his fair share of stinkers over the last decade or so — given his own little playground to play in, with recognisable



characters, he can turn in a very enjoyable light-hearted romp. This will particularly appeal to those of us of a certain age, but doesn't need an encyclopaedic knowledge of DC continuity to be appreciated. This is the third part of Byrne's Generations Elseworlds saga, that takes as a starting point the conceit that well-loved characters age and die, marry and give birth, with a predominant focus on the Superman and Batman dynasties. The only niggle is that Byrne should really think about working with an inker who could smooth out some of his rougher edges. (TS) 6

In 1925 Superboy and a young Bruce Wayne fight aliens who have travelled back in time to change the... yadda, yadda, yadda. It's another Generic Adventure Comic from John Byrne. There's not really any point to it, but if you like looking at his pictures... (MT) 2

this issue, which is full of unsaid riddles. As ever Eduardo Rizzo's stylised dark artwork is perfect for a strip in which every character has two faces. (MT) 7

## **Stormwatch: Team Achilles 7**

by Wright & Texeira; WildStorm

<> Like their predecessors, the UN team takes matters into their own hands after being frustrated by right-wing forces in the US administration, exacting revenge on a particularly unpleasant character. It's good to see that guest-artist Mark Texeira can still produce dark chunky artwork — although the computer colouring does it no favours — for Micah Ian Wright's interlude tale of an unauthorised undercover mission. (MAT) 6

## **Vertigo Pop: London 3**

by Milligan & Bond + Pleece; Vertigo

<> The momentum reached in the first two

issues is not quite sustained for the entirety of this issue. Pete Milligan still keeps the dialogue crackling along, but once we're used to Rocky in Sean's body the rest of what happens isn't as exciting as it has the potential to be. Still, this remains a remarkably entertaining series, tackling the second-chances idea in a very enjoyable way. (AL) 7

## **War Story: The Reivers**

by Ennis & Kennedy; Vertigo

Garth Ennis clearly enjoys writing about WWII and relishes creating nonconformist characters stuck in the worst conditions possible. The Reivers is beautifully illustrated by Cam Kennedy in a style reminiscent of the 1970s war comics artists whose spirit Ennis is setting out to revive in this series. The plot — drawing parallels between Scottish guerrilla fighters of past centuries and the SAS of the 1940s — is less satisfying than to-be-hoped for, but is nonetheless an engaging read. (AL) 7

## **Superman: The 10-Cent Adventure**

by Seagle & McDaniel + Owens

A 'This is Superman' tale for anyone who might not know who he is (is there anyone?). This bargain-priced issue introduces the new Superman creative team, with former Batman penciller Scott McDaniel's style proving more suited to the Man of Steel than to the Dark Knight and his associates. (SH) 7

<> Just how many bloody Supergirls does the DC Universe need? Sheesh! Superman knocks around with the instantly forgettable Amok, while contorting himself into positions that would make the Elongated Man proud. How the heck is his arse connected to his torso on page one? Bugged if I know. Touted as a jumping on point, I'm jumping back off. Steven T. Seagle seems to have little of interest to say, and Scott McDaniel understands anatomy as much as I do quantum physics. (TS) 4

Another novelty-priced issue, another embarrassing slack of books to cram the back-issue bins. If DC honestly expects this comic to attract new readers, perhaps it should reconsider the confusingly muddy art and the uninspiringly clichéd hero fights and concentrate on the few interesting ideas that Steven T. Seagle brings to this lacklustre script. Unfortunately this book really was as nasty as it was cheap. (MAT) 4



## **War Story: J For Jenny**

by Ennis & Lloyd; Vertigo

J for Jenny focuses on a WWII bomber crew, and the contradictions within the characters which drive and threaten to destroy them. David Lloyd's art is second to none, being wholly evocative of both the time period and the mood. And writer Ennis's ending defies the expectations of both the characters and the readers, making this one of the most memorable of his War Stories to date. (AL) 8

## **Wildcats Version 3.0 #5**

by Casey  
& Nguyen + Friend; WildStorm

<> Gritter faces danger in the suburbs as he comes off much the worst when he once again faces a sombre Agent Orange and the (literally) nuclear family from hell! Fortunately Joe Casey allows new executive Marlowe the time from his busy schedule to come to the rescue. His previous run may have been heroes-without-a-cause, but Casey's new direction of heroes-with-multinational-corporations continues to be insightful, intelligent and action-packed. (MAT) 7

## **Image**

### **Masters of the Universe 2**

by various; MVCreations

<> The Sorceress sends He-Man on a mission to keep the all-powerful Shard of Darkness out of the hands of the bad guys, but Evil-Lyn has other ideas. Writer Val Staples, aside from contributing great colour work, is building a terrific and fleshed-out fantasy universe here, one which is surprisingly but smartly adult. Artist Emiliano Santalucia is nothing short of spectacular. Masterful. (CEB) 8

## **Paradigm 3**

by Cashel & Haum

<> Talking midget heads coming out of the wall, drunken discussions about religion and crummy relationships, and fatal attacks in a subway. All presumably linked in Matthew Cashel and Jeremy Haum's mysterious Twilight Zone of a series. Although there can be no doubting the creators' love of their work — as they cram in every idea and pop culture reference — unfortunately the dense art and scripting make for a somewhat confusing and impenetrable read, rather than the engrossing intrigue that it could be. (MAT) 5

## **Powers 27**

by Bendis & Oeming

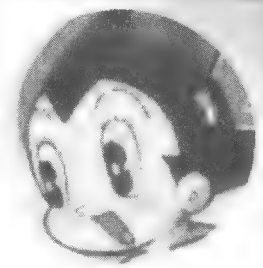
<> Walker and Pilgrim question Dragonfist about his past with Unity after a colourful flashback sequence. The flashback is entertaining but takes too much out of the rest of the issue, which does end on a great cliffhanger. And, as usual, tick the boxes marked Great story, Great dialogue and Great art. (MT) 7

## **Savage Dragon 103**

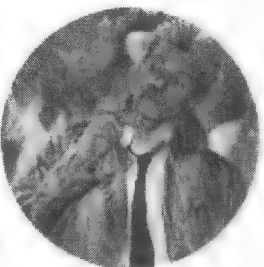
by Larsen

Erik Larsen's latest Lee/Kirby tribute continues with a devouring space-wanderer threatening two worlds. If you thought Galactus was big, think again. On Malcolm's world, a desperate rescue by persons unknown pitches the superkids into the Void. On the Savage World, the heroes try everything to stop the devourer in its tracks. Jaw-dropping drama deftly delivered, and comic genius out of the





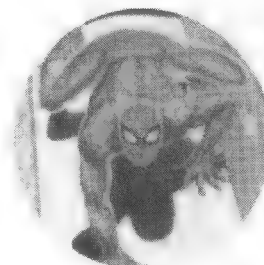
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### Rex Mundi 1

by Nelson  
& Johnson

<=> After *Brother Matthew* tantalised, and an issue #0 captivated, the series proper begins. And what a fantastic first issue this is. In an alternate feudal Paris of 1933, physician Julien discovers a mutilated corpse and calls on the help of a friendly Rabbi who suspects dark magic is involved. With its detailed artwork, intriguing plotline and a wholly original setting, Arvid Nelson and Eric Johnson's work will have you vowing to follow it all the way. (MAT) 8

mouths of Angel, Vanguard and Wally. (DK) 9

### Tom Judge: End of Days 1

by Jenkins

& Crain + Glapion; Top Cow

Tom is carrying a necklace which, along with other occult items like the Witchblade, grant the owner mastery of hell. Or something. The plot is as hackneyed as the characters are bland and two-dimensional, and the artwork is messy and inconsistent. This is basically a rip-off of all the best bits of Hell in the Vertigo universe, with all the good bits missing. The ending is rubbish too. (MT) 1

## Marvel

### Alias 18

by Bendis & Gaydos; MAX Comics

<=> Without doubt the most strikingly original comicbook Marvel has published since the early Seventies, *Alias* maintains a level of excellence that should have comic fans frothing at the mouth in anticipation of each new issue. Highlights this month include Jessica's attempts to get into an exclusive night club, and the idea of superhero girlfriends as fashion accessories. Just awesome, man. (RN) 9

<=> Jennifer's search for the teenage Spider-Girl who broke into her apartment continues, interrupted by a spat with her boyfriend and bodyguarding Matt Murdock. Michael Gaydos's murky art is as superb as usual, and the writing is out of this world. Brian Michael Bendis's story is as far removed from the punching-while-talking school of superheroics as possible, even if the main character is dating Antman! (MT) 9

<=> Continuing to investigate her mysterious trespasser, Jess is forced to enter an even more mysterious realm: the ladies' cloakroom! Bendis maintains the tension and pace, effortlessly gelling with Gaydos's subtle art, on this detective-cum-superheroine pet project of his. Bendis's brilliant knack for dialogue never lets up, making me wonder if he's a woman as well as a Brit? (MAT) 8

### Amazing Spider-Man 49

by Straczynski & Romita Jr + Hanna

<=> Peter goes to see Mary Jane in Los Angeles. At exactly the same time MJ goes to

see Peter in New York. They're destined to fail. Then along comes a spider. With not a punch thrown and only a hint of the hero, Marvel has clearly learnt from its past mistakes: gimmicks are not the answer – all that's needed to entertain is for the creators to weave wonderful stories such as this. And what's good for Spidey is surely good for comics as a whole. (CEB) 8

<=> After the fighting of the last few issues, J. Michael Straczynski goes for a feel-good issue, as Mary Jane and Peter attempt to meet up to sort out their struggling relationship. Straczynski's everyday humour is spot-on as usual, with some wonderful comical moments to break up the touching scenes of the pair's separation. John Romita Jr can be great at illustrating action sequences, but is just as much at home here portraying the lives of the couple. (MAT) 7

### The Avengers 62

by Johns & Frank + Sibal

<=> Ant-Man and Jack of Hearts at each other's throats. A scenario involving two B-list characters that would normally make comics fans run a mile. Yet here it is, not only presented as the foundation to an Avengers story (not a back-up tale either), but also made interesting and deftly dramatic by the expert handling of writer Geoff Johns and brilliant Brit penciller, Gary Frank. (CEB) 7

<=> Jack of Hearts and Ant-Man are the focus of this heartfelt character piece. Johns writes this kind of thing much better than the unintentionally hilarious superheroics of previous issues, and Frank's art is an improvement this month. (KG) 6

### Captain America 7

by Ney Rieber

& Hairsine + Miki; Marvel Knights

<=> Cap gets involved in a clone saga – but one far removed from Spidey's. John Ney Rieber keeps this surprisingly gritty, and it's intriguing as to whether he's deliberately tapping into current world events or if his ideas are – like all great sci-fi – pre-empting sci-fact. Penciller John Cassaday's absence is noticeable of course, but Trevor Hairsine excels in expressing the ambience. (CEB) 7

<=> Showing old fashioned levels of naiveté, Ney Rieber has Cap make a difference by moving into a slum neighbourhood in order to police it personally. Cue tough but noble



street gang members coming to the conclusion that guns are bad and throwing them away to trust instead in the time-honoured goodness and security of red, white and blue. If only life really was that simple. (RN) 5

<> Brit artist Hairsine joins Ney Rieber – as Cassaday turns his attentions to cover work and other projects – and proves to be a fitting replacement, with a loose yet muscular Bryan Hitch style, well suited to the title's more down-to-earth approach. After the patriotic, yet somewhat reactionary initial arc, Ney Rieber turns to more traditional heroics, as Cap is drawn to the aid of a friend from the past and finds himself up against rogue SHIELD agents. (MAT) 5

### Captain Marvel 4

by David & Reis + Sotomayor

<> Just as he did during his tenure on The Incredible Hulk, writer Peter David is weaving a fiction so rich and complex that it can no longer be justified in categorising this simply as a "comicbook". Captain Marvel is, quite frankly, highbrow literature. Equal credit has to be given here to the opulent artistry of Ivan Reis. Any improvement and this title will be scoring a 10. (CEB) 9

<> Substitute artist Reis just about pulls off ChrisCross's style, aided in no small part by the digital colouring of Chris Sotomayor. But it is David's cleverly paced scripts that keep the momentum of the title cranked up to 11, as Marv throws his weight around, decimates a Shi'ar armada, and celestial forces take an interest in Rick. David shows just how unhinged Marv has become, and that the awesome power of the cosmos might not be in the most stable of hands. (MAT) 7

### Daredevil 40

by Bendis & Dodson + Dodson; Marvel Knights

<> Brian Michael Bendis creates a shocking finale to his "trial of the century", as Matt Murdock's attempt to clear a fellow hero's name goes disastrously wrong. Although the Dodsons might not be the obvious choice as stand-in artists on this dark and moody title, their clear artwork and lines are a pleasant break, and much better than the previous fill-in. (MAT) 7



### Daredevil 41

by Bendis & Maleev; Marvel Knights

OK, so I've never really understood the appeal of Daredevil and the prospect of the new movie is about as interesting to me as a UK Gold *Bergerac* weekend. And I'm afraid reading this has done nothing to alter any of that. Six pages of Daredevil stopping a blind-person being hit by a truck? And another five of talking heads in a lawyer's office? Sorry guys, but suddenly John Nettles in Jersey is starting to look fairly exciting. And is it just me, or has something gone seriously awry when superheroes talk about suing tabloid newspapers for millions? (AL) 3

<> The fallout from the collapse of the Kingpin's crime empire continues as The Owl takes charge. Brian

Michael Bendis captures Matt's offhand nature perfectly as he dismisses his lame rogues gallery with the contempt they deserve, but counterpoints this with a moment of brutal savagery, made all the more powerful by Matt Hollingsworth's superb colours. (LN) 8

<> At last, the novelty pricing of this book actually highlights just how excellent the title itself has become under Bendis's care. Alex Maleev returns as Bendis starts to examine the power vacuum left in the wake of the assassination of the Kingpin. Maleev's gritty computer-manipulated photo art skillfully portrays the dark and gruesome world Daredevil inhabits. He even manages to make The Owl appear scary! (MAT) 8

### Daredevil: Movie Adaptation

by Jones & Garcia + Hanna; Marvel Knights

Exactly what it says on the cover. This is a 'Hollywood' interpretation of Daredevil's origin and the Elektra saga as recounted by that work horse Bruce Jones. Rather mediocre art from Manuel Garcia, suggesting the greenhorn Garcia has yet to find his novel niche. This is distinctly for the cinema-going public; those not in the know. (CDB) 5



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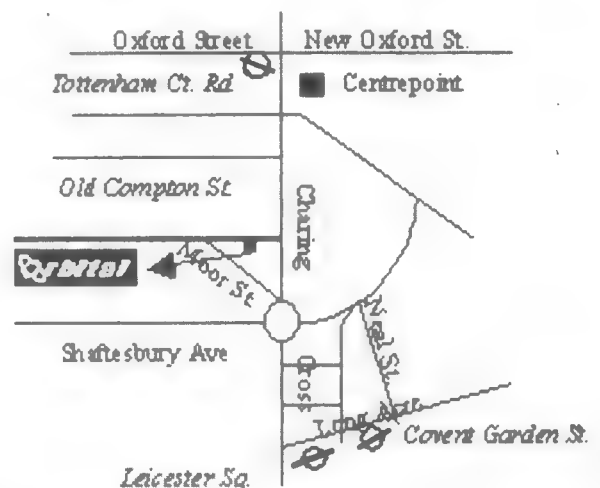
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**Elektra 19**

by Rucka &amp; Meglia; Marvel Knights

<-> Carlos Meglia's cartoony art was ill-suited to Star Wars and Superman, and it is even less appropriate for Elektra. The red-attired assassin herself looks good, but everything else is farcically over-the-top and does not suit the gritty nature of the series. (SH) 4

**Fantastic Four 65**

by Waid &amp; Buckingham

<-> The FF become pest exterminators, as Reed and Ben chase an alien bug and Johnny deals with cockroaches of the human variety. Mark Waid accomplishes that rare phenomenon in comics: creating a thoroughly enjoyable read, while — although artist Mike Wieringo is missed — Mark Buckingham is a more-than-adequate fill-in. A title on fantastic form. (CEB) 7

**Incredible Hulk 49**

by Jones &amp; Immonen + Koblish

Violence and death, as a standoff between Sandra Verdugo and a brutal and misogynistic rogue FBI agent transformed by Hulk blood becomes increasingly desperate before the Hulk makes his appearance. Book-ended by a framing sequence that moves from peep show to seedy bar to a sparse apartment, that presumably means something to regular readers. Stuart Immonen and Scott Koblish give it all a stylish look, complemented by Studio F's restrained colours. (DK) 7

<-> What a cover! Kaare Andrews pays tribute to *Where The Wild Things Are* with panache, and the inside's not bad either. Banner, while controlling the Hulk's body, takes on superfat Agent Pratt with the help of rogue agent Sandra Verdugo, who's just trying to rescue her son. The confrontation is a little wordy, but this ending is classily put together and stormily illustrated. (MT) 8

<-> The dull art and confusingly dragging plotlines are starting to turn me off this title. Bruce Jones's direction seems to have waned since the departure of John Romita Jr, with the rogue secret agents, transfused Hulk blood, missing children and secret organisations hidden under layers of double bluffs, resurrected characters and half revealed plots. Hopefully some artistic stability and the next jump-on "big number" issue will resolve these problems. (MAT) 6

**Iron Man 63**

by Grell &amp; Ryan + Parsons

<-> Iron Man's being attacked by a giant squid, and broadcasts a baby whale's distress call. In the next panel four sperm whales are beating up the squid, having magically appeared from nowhere. Contrived? Over-simplistic? Throw in some rubbish terrorists, a ticking bomb, a hokey Christmas subplot and plenty of they-all-look-the-same art, and you have quite frankly the worst superhero comic available. Enjoy. (MT) 1

**Iron Man 64**

by Grell &amp; Davis + Riggs

<-> A crossover from the concept of Thor's monthly mag pits Avenger against Avenger. Alan Davis should consider a full stint on Shellhead's book judging by the amazing visuals of this issue. Iron Man hasn't looked this good since the relaunch and now with Mike Grell off the book a rejuvenation beckons for the Iron Icon. (CDB) 8

**Fantastic Four: Unstable Molecules 1**

by Sturm &amp; Davis

What if the FF were real people, growing up in the '50s? The writer's contention is that Reed Richards would be a boring boffin with Sue as his put-upon partner, while Ben and Johnny would be whacking off every five minutes. It may sound like I'm offended by this revision of the FF but the truth is that this book's real crime is that it's exceptionally dull and tedious. (LN) 1

While the claim of authenticity does this miniseries no favours (although it's fooled at least one CI reader), James Sturm's faux biography of the FF's real life inspirations proves to be a thought-provokingly enjoyable read. Sturm uses the less fanciful facets of the famous characters to explore various aspects of post-war America, while Guy Davis's work captures the awkward messy realities of this street-level tale. (MAT) 6

<-> Marvel has been keeping Davis busy recently, what with this three-part crossover and his own Killraven series coming out at the same time, but fortunately Davis's clean art hasn't suffered as a result. Subtly manipulated by Dr Doom, Tony Stark puts on another supercharged suit and wades into battle with Thor, as the tension between the Avengers team members escalates. (MAT) 6

**Killraven 4**

by Davis + Farmer

<-> Alan Davis's pencils certainly suit the Killraven mythos, but the writing doesn't rise above its simple action formula. The characters lack the subtle touches that readers of the original series will remember, and the pace sometimes makes the reader feel it's rushing headlong from one set piece to another in a mad dash to cover 23 issues of continuity in the space of a short miniseries. (RN) 6

<-> More non-ironic '70s style, post-apocalyptic, sci-fi action adventure as Davis's reinterpretation of the escaped martian gladiator continues. Davis's art is great at capturing heroics and slick bodies in motion, but his writing remains slightly clichéd and trite. Sinister scientists and love-struck alien monsters anyone? It seems a pity that Davis didn't use the opportunity to experiment with the character and make it relevant to a more savvy audience. (MAT) 6

**Marvel Double-Shot 3**

by various

<-> A smoochy dealing-with-fatherhood issue, as Reed Richards attempts to explain religion to the eternally naive and youthful Franklin, and Antman stresses over his teenage daughter going to a party. Both artists have cartoon influences; Gurihiru employs an anime style, and Darwyn Cooke develops out of a retro animated Batman design. It's a pity the writers seem to be addressing a more mature audience from the perspective of the fathers. (MAT) 6

**New X-Men 136**

by Morrison &amp; Quitely + Avalon

<-> While U-Men attack Xorn's camping trip, Kid Omega — 'angry and high on kick' — breaks up another U-Men cell, denouncing them as cannibal freaks. The tone is anything but earnest. Witness the theatrical menace of the villains; and Grant Morrison's comic wit: "The smell of this guy is escaping from the hole in his pervert suit!" (DK) 7

<-> The *Riot at Xavier's* storyline is a series high point for Morrison's X-Men, based as it is on the premise of what would happen if Professor Xavier encouraged his students to think for themselves, but didn't like the results. Mixing *A Clockwork Orange* with an understanding of the roots of fascism, the writing shows flashes of the old genius that made Morrison's name 15 years ago. (RN) 8

<-> The 'New' X-Men continue their hopped up rebellion while Xorn's remedial class has to face down the cannibal-surgeon U-Men. As ever there's loads going on, other X-books spread this much plot, action, humour and character development over three or four issues. Frank Quitely's art isn't up to its usual standard, but it's still better than any of the usual fill-ins. (MT) 8

<-> The young drugged-up mutant menaces take actions into their own hands, attacking the U-Men and staging a coup at the open-day at Xavier's School, as their loser classmates are taught an important lesson in team-building. Morrison gently pastiches the X-Men philosophy, while Quitely's art plays up to the more comical aspects of the script. But I'm left wondering when we can expect the No Girl action figure. (MAT) 9

**Paradise X #8**

by Krueger &amp; Braithwaite + Reinhold

<-> A new Death stalks Universe X, having broken out of Reed Richards' laboratory in Latveria, bringing final release to the maimed

and the uninjured alike. Why this is a problem is unclear, as they are all bound for Mar-vell's Paradise in the Negative Zone anyway. Overcrowding in the afterlife, perhaps? (DK) 5

**Spider-Man: Blue 5**

by Loeb &amp; Sale; Marvel Knights

<-> Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale continue to trawl through Spidey's past, as this title slowly filters onto the shelves. There's no doubting that Sale's quirky yet retro art excels at re-imagining Lee and Ditko's classic issues, but it's a shame this talent isn't channelled into creating something new or even particularly original, as Loeb's scripts remain merely mediocre. (MAT) 5

**Tangled Web 21**

by Cooke &amp; Bone

<-> Teaming up with Jay Bone once again for another light-hearted festive issue, Darwyn Cooke homes his script in on the staff of the Daily Bugle, as they attempt to entertain young children at a toy store and Peter tries to buy Christmas presents, only to find things interrupted by a dastardly villain. Cooke manages to evoke the merry Marvelisms of old, while Bone's cartoony retro lines gently pastiche past masters. (MAT) 7

**Tangled Web 22**

by Walsh &amp; Dosa

<-> A much-mused subject is spotlighted in *The System*. The question of costumed crime-fighters' intervention in the justice cycle and its subsequent ramifications. Of course it helps if the hero has an advantageous occupation. A revealing spin (pun) by Brian Walsh aided and abetted by crime noir pencils/inks from Alverno Dosa. (CDB) 6

**Thor 58**

by Jurgens + Davis &amp; Davis + Riggs

<-> Alan Davis's cross-title storyline kicks off as the lord of Asgard comes to the aid of his growing cult of followers in a repressive Balkan state, causing untold diplomatic worry. Although Dan Jurgens' religious undertones may not be all that insightful, this is an intriguing aspect not properly examined in the title until his run. Davis's assured clean art is particularly well suited to portraying the splendour of the Asgardians, only to be spoilt by the garish colouring palette. (MAT) 6

**The Truth 2**

by Morales &amp; Baker

<-> The new recruits find themselves subjected to military prejudice, as sinister governmental forces seek test subjects for their undercover project. While his work wouldn't look out of place in a *Sad Sack* or *Beetle Bailey* strip, Kyle Baker's colourful art has a charm that is made all the more sinister by these events, while Robert Morales manages to keep this examination of a hero's clandestine origins grounded by his sympathetic characters. (MAT) 7

**Ultimate Daredevil & Elektra 1-4**

by Rucka &amp; Larroca + Miki

The Ultimate line is great. Greg Rucka is a great writer. Daredevil and Elektra are great characters. This miniseries, however, was pointless. The less-than-thrilling storyline focuses on a teenage Elektra, with Matt Murdock little more than a supporting character.



Nothing new has been added to these characters. A disappointment, despite attractive art from Salvador Larroca and Danny Miki. (SH) 5

## Ultimate Spider-Man 34

by Bendis & Bagley + Thibert

<=> Ultimate Venom is gradually introduced, and isn't god-awful! In fact, the whole issue's spot on. There's more on Peter and MJ, and of course on Peter's dead parents. Brian Michal Bendis's storytelling is so strong that every issue's ending feels like the ultimate (heh) cliffhanger, and the art's as good as ever. Top-hole. (MT) 8

## Ultimate Spider-Man 35

by Bendis & Bagley + Thibert

<=> Spider-Man gets a new black suit that grows its own webs and makes him super-hard, and he didn't have to go to outer space to get it! The ultimate Venom story is actually very different to the original; it's fast, funny and thrill-a-minute. You should definitely be reading this. (MT) 8

## Ultimate War 2

by Millar  
& Bachalo + Townsend + Owens

Behind a dull cover lurks a dull story about dull characters talking, shall we say, dully. A pale shadow of Mark Millar's regular takes on these Marvel mega-men, which only tops up with the appearance of Magneto. And do you know what? You find yourself rooting for the guy, hoping against hope he'll whoop these tedious do-gooders' butts. After all, how unattractive is a premature end to the American way of life? (AL) 4

<=> The only thing better than a new issue of the Ultimates is two new issues of the Ultimates, and so long as Ultimate War carries on, that's sort of what we get. Being old enough to remember the Avengers/Defenders war in the '70s, I love this manufactured ruckus, and have placed myself firmly on the side of the Ultimates. I haven't felt this passionate about a trivial row since Oasis vs Blur in the early '90s. Go, go, Thor! (RN) 8

<=> War. What is it good for? Ultimately nothing! I shan't say it again. But I will berate this comic for Millar's camp dialogue (is Magneto auditioning to be the next Bond villain?) and the art. What you can make out of it, anyway. It's far too dark, with too many spotted blacks, and some seriously slack storytelling. Consequently, what should have been a truly dramatic scene was lost to obscurity. Did Pietro die at Magneto's hands? Who knows, and ultimately, who cares. Anyway, Magneto attacks the Ultimates in their base, the X-Men talk shop, and the appalling cover reminds one of the shiny loo roll that can be found in school bags. (TS) 5

<=> The X-Men remain in hiding as the Ultimates search high and low for them and find their defences little use against the newly resurgent master of magnetism. Millar is still working his magic on the script, with his usual wide-angle impact, wise-arse dialogue and insightful new takes on established characters. But this impact is dulled by Chris Bachalo's muddy art, leaving the series more a Paul Daniels than a Houdini. (MAT) 6

## Ultimate X-Men 27

by Millar & Finch + Thibert

<=> It's time to hide in a deep hole in the ground as Magneto, freshly arisen from Xavier's crude attempt at rehabilitating him into a decent and productive member of society, shows everyone who the Daddy really is. Divided physically and mentally, the

scattered members of the X-Men seem ill-equipped to defeat the Master of Magnetism a second time around. (RN) 8

<=> The return of Magneto continues with another filler issue, mostly focusing on Magneto's brotherhood members. The art isn't great, and neither is the scripting, which is for the most part empty buzzword-saturated exposition and trendy yet unnecessary dialogue, which is surprising considering the usual quality of this title. (MT) 5

## The Ultimates 8

by Millar & Hitch + Currie

<=> Currently the unchallenged holder of the Coolest Comic on the Planet Award, The Ultimates is as close to a Hollywood movie as you're gonna get without forking out the mega-bucks budget. Between them the art team of Bryan Hitch, Paul Neary and Paul Mounts are creating visuals which will positively take your breath away. And then half a dozen or so pages from the end we discover writer Mark Millar's been borrowing Grant Morrison's David Icke books and the mega thing looks set to flip off in a whole new intriguing direction. Top stuff. (AL) 9

<=> It seems David Icke was right after all. There really are giant lizards living among us. Tony Stark's reaction sums up how we'd all feel if given that news – a sharp contrast to the other team members who take it in their stride. The Ultimates is still the first comic I grab off the shelf each month and the first one I read on the train home. It's nothing short of brilliant. (RN) 9

<=> Read this and weep, Hollywood. Millar and Hitch once again allow their talents to run riot in full cinematic splendour as SHIELD operatives Hawkeye and Black Widow unleash their augmented powers on a whole office block of alien workers. Millar's reinterpretation of the Avengers really shoves all other superheroics out of the limelight. Hitch's tardiness is completely excused, as his meticulous pencilling wows with page after beautifully crafted page. (MAT) 9

## X-Statix 6

by Milligan & Allred

<=> Venus Dee Milo has a bit of a

transdimensional problem, and Guy Smith takes the public's opinion of him a bit too far. Inspired plotting and great characterisation mesh brilliantly with Mike Allred's unique art style in this, the best of Marvel's superhero comics. (KG) 8

<=> When public opinion is swung against him guilt-ridden Guy Smith goes off the rails and trashes a Xavier building to steal mutant battlesuits and go on a rampage as Bad guy. This sounds awful, but it's actually awfully good, brimming over with humour, satire and style. Buy it before it's cancelled. (MT) 8

<=> After the shocking revelations of last issue, the despondent team face the prospect of their leader – Guy – gone bad, as a costume-clad villain attacks, forcing Venus Dee Milo's affections to be tested to the limit. Is it really him? As usual Pete Milligan keeps the cards close to his chest leaving us on tenterhooks once again. (MAT) 7

## X-Treme X-Pose 2

by Claremont & Ranson

<=> Chris Claremont brings his jaunt into a pair of journalists' investigation of the team to a close, concentrating on the annoyingly-accented Rogue and Gambit, whose depowered state gives them new insight into the mutant situation. Arthur Ranson's photo-realistic art proves an interesting change to Salvador Larroca's more colourful work for these less action-packed interlude issues, which allows Claremont more excuses to write voice-overs and tedious monologues. ... (MAT) 6

## US Indies

### Bone 50

by Smith; Cartoon Books

Fone Bone and Thorn languish in jail as Gran'ma Ben defends the city from Briar and the rat creatures. Maybe Thorn's strange dreams hold the key to salvation? If you've seen *The Two Towers* some scenes here will look remarkably familiar, but don't be too quick to accuse writer/artist Jeff Smith of stealing; while J.R.R. Tolkien is clearly an influence, Smith possesses storytelling

talents of the highest calibre. (CEB) 7

## Freemind 2

by Michelinie  
& Layton + McLeod; Future Comics

Disabled genius Mac succeeds in transferring his mind into a robot, but things take a turn for the worse when his human body is kidnapped. Writers David Michelinie and Bob Layton, best known for their great run on Iron Man, stay in the familiar territory of advanced technology and big business... but not to their benefit. Unless this is aimed squarely at children, the dialogue and direction are altogether wanting. (CEB) 4

## Little Gloomy Adventures

by Walker  
& Jones; Slave Labor Graphics

Two complete stories previously printed in Disney Adventures, given the glorious colour and glossy paper treatment. Familiar characters Gloomy (a girl), Frank (a monster), Larry (a werewolf) and Carl Cthulhu – written and drawn with obvious fondness by their creators – foil a vengeful witch and visit Mummyville. Fun rather than laugh-out-loud funny, but a pleasant little read nonetheless. (DK) 6

## Metallix 1

by Michelinie  
& Lim + Layton; Future Comics

The team test out the battlesuit, Metal X, before they come under attack and need to use it for real. The premise is interesting yet logical: a "tag-team superhero" with each group member able to act in turn as host to the armour. But writers David Michelinie and Bob Layton – even with talented penciller Ron Lim – aren't breaking any new ground. The main problem is that the characters and dialogue feel far too conventional. (CEB) 4

## Transformers Armada 6

by Furman & Lee + Armstrong;  
DreamWave Productions

<=> Megatron uncovers the ultimate Mini-Con weapon, putting the whole world in danger. Simon Furman debuts, and immediately moves the emphasis away from the obnoxious child sidekicks. Pat Lee pencils in a far more superior style to his Generation One work, although there are still a few odd panels. (KG) 7

## Transformers: The War Within 4

by Furman & Figueroa + To;  
DreamWave Productions

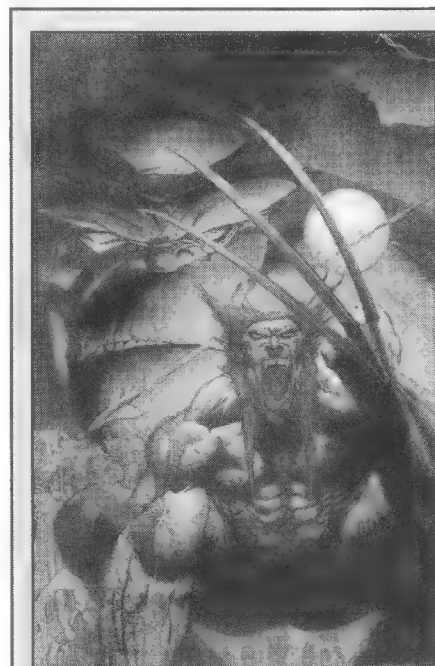
<=> Megatron and Prime clash while their respective lieutenants put their own plans into action. Excellent art and top-notch writing characterise this title, with only a lack of urgency in the plotting dragging it down. (KG) 8

## UK Titles

### Commando 3589

by various; DC Thomson

<=> *Forced to Feud* recounts the story of a life-long vendetta between two families in 17th Century Scotland. Young Samuel Kernice must take up arms against the ruthless land owner who destroyed his life. This old-fashioned tale of honour is a welcome change from Commando's usual



Jones steers away from the traditional Hulk/Wolverine bash up, opting for a 'race against the clock' tale, borrowing heavily from 24 with multiple interconnected plotlines and cross-scene dialogue. (MAT) 7

## Hulk/Wolverine: Six Hours 1

by Jones & Kolins

Bruce Banner finds himself on a charter flight accompanied by a snake-bitten teenager and two drug runners. Testosterone binge anyone? Bruce Jones dabbles in synchronicity the way Disney dabbles in talking mice. It's practically trademark. And thankfully Scott Kolins' art is far more appealing than the disturbing cover art. (CDB) 7

A plane crashes in the Canadian mountains with a certain green-skinned giant aboard, just as our favourite X-Man attempts to escape into the wilderness. Kolins returns to Marvel, bringing his quirky linework and solid storytelling, for another take on its big-name characters.



WWII fare and, even more unusual, the adventure continues next month in *The Fiercest Feud*. (SM) 7

## Inferno! 34

by various; Games Workshop

This action-packed sci-fi and fantasy title only contains one comic strip, *Tales from the Ten-Tailed Cat*, a murky story of betrayal and vengeance. Elsewhere, there are compelling prose stories from the likes of hot newcomer Si Spurrier and the ubiquitous Dan Abnett, proving once again that the anthology format is ideal for experimentation and diversity of content. (SM) 7

## Judge Dredd Magazine 202

by various; Rebellion

<--> This weighty anthology delivers an impressive range of strips. 2000 AD Gold migrates to the centre pages with this issue, beginning reprints of *Slaine: Time Killer* and *Darkie's Mob*. The overall quality is good, except for the pedestrian gangster serial *Family*. *Devlin Waugh* seems more improvised than scripted, and *Black Siddha*, by Pat Mills, is as didactic as you'd expect. Graham Manley's art on *Juliet November* is reminiscent of vintage 2000 AD (DK) 7

<=> Could anyone read this in one go? The wealth of strips on offer these days in the Magazine would leave even the most hungry of comic fans feeling seriously bloated. And when the creators of the new material are of the calibre of Pat Mills, Alan Grant, Simon Davis, Simon Fraser and Colin MacNeil, you know each story is worth savouring. Not forgetting the reprint of *Darkie's Mob* from Battle as well as a host of treats and tid-bits. Oh, and there's Judge Dredd too. (AL) 9

## 2000 AD

### Progs 1322-1325

by various; Rebellion

<=> 2000 AD has everything covered. Chris Blythe's colouring and Henry Flint's art on *Judge Dredd vs Aliens* deserve special mention. *Slaine* is as dreary and unpleasant as ever, although Clint Langley's eerie, computer-enhanced art glistens. *Sinister Dexter* resolve their temporal paradox in four issues. *Caballistics Inc* defend the London underground from demons, with nods to Dr Who and Quatermass for alert readers. Fine art more than makes up for *Nikolai Dante's* slow pace. (DK) 7

## Small Press

### Bulldog Adventure Magazine 23

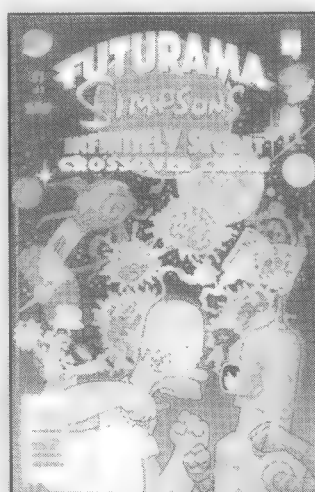
by Cobley & various;  
kingsunset@yahoo.com

The latest issue of Jason Cobley's alternate Earth adventure comic features several new instalments of Captain Winston Bulldog's fight against Blighty's new fascist government as well as episodes of *Vrai* and the excellent *Rainbow Orchid* by Garen Ewing. The art ranges in style with particularly notable offerings from P.J. Holden, Ed Traquino and the Herge-esque Ewing. Cracking. (MT) 8

### Freak Daddy 1

by Sainsbury; £1.50 from  
There Goes Tokyo  
145 Clydesdale Road, Byker  
Newcastle NE6 2EQ

Freak Daddy is somewhat of a phenomenon



## Futurama/Simpsons: Infinitely Secret Crossover Crisis 2

by Boothby & Lloyd + Steere;  
Bongo Comics

At long last, but still as scheduled, the conclusion. Forced together by a more than usually inventive plot device, both sets of characters are portrayed consistently in a comic packed with hilarious incident, and funny asides like "You know the Duff robot knocked up Flanders's jukebox?". This is well crafted and five different kinds of funny, with character traits minutely and comically observed. (DK) 10

<=> The cartoon crossover concludes as the compelling characters conduct themselves cleverly to crack out of the cunning conundrum of being caught in a comicbook! No, it's not all a dream! With its knowing pastiches of comic conventions, the Bongo crew manages to fit each character from Matt Groening's creations into this series, while openly satirising the CGC fad. Who would probably grade this 7.98 (MAT) 8

in the north east of England. Gritty monochromatic art, chunky blacks with stencilled airbrushed greyscales, reading like a hyperviolent blacksploitation flick. Images from this comic adorn everything from t-shirts and magazines to the walls of pubs and clubs all over Newcastle. With rumours of a soundtrack being released to listen to while you read. A promising series. (AS) 7

## Hope For the Future 4

by Perrins & various;  
£2 from S. Perrins  
1 Newton Park Mansions  
St Mary's Road, Leeds LS7 3JX

Horror/sci-fi/comedy series laden with pop culture references and digs at various subcultures. This issue is set during Halloween and in true ghost story tradition each character has their own spooky tale to tell. Each story is handled by a different artist, all of whom are of a high standard. Contains a wealth of small press talent including Richard J. Smith. (LO) 8

## Lost Shoe Comics 2

by Potts; £1.50 from Smallzone  
10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ercall  
Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH

An offbeat 36-page mini-comic, chronicling the exploits of hapless Franchman Henri Martini as he tries to win the affections of the local barmaid. Alex Potts' loose,

spontaneous cartooning brings a great deal of life to the expressive visuals, but it's a shame that after a strong start the script and the otherwise confident art weaken somewhat. (JE) 6

## M56 Junction One

by Mathieson & Hitchman;  
£1.30 from There Goes Tokyo  
145 Clydesdale Road, Byker  
Newcastle NE6 2EQ

Short comic comprised of self-contained one-page strips. As with most anthologies, this is a mixed bag. Highlights include the anecdotal tale of when Colin met Eddie Campbell and a re-enactment of a cringe-worthy scene from a "classic" comic. Lovingly crafted by people passionate about comics. (LO) 7

## Mbleh! 2

by Byrne; Clamnut Comix  
3 Euro from B. Byrne  
43 Kilcare Gardens, Jobstown  
Tallaght D24, Ireland

Visit clamnuts.com for overseas postage. I can't praise this title enough. Foul, tasteless, unpleasant and downright offensive... oh, and funny. Bob Byrne's art is slick and easy on the eye, and the entire title is exquisitely produced. Six truly great strips, but in all honesty worth the cover price for "clam land" alone. (AS) 9



## Stray Bullets 28

by Lapham; El Capitan

<=> While the recent flawless Amy issue is one against which all subsequent issues of this series will be judged, it is fair to say that each of writer/artist David Lapham's instalments is a special read. As brutal as it is heartbreaking, this issue takes in teenage voyeurism, coitus interruptus (twice) and a caterpillar called J.B. An extraordinary tale of sordid folk. (AL) 8

<=> The fates of Amy and Beth continue to unfold as Monster puts Amy in a binbag with a broken leg, and she has to stay in the closet with dumb kid Joey while his mother's humping. In the meantime Beth sits in jail, not knowing where Amy is. Plenty of action, cool as beans crime talk and suspense make this a definite must-read. (MT) 8

## Schtumm 1

by various;  
£1.50 from There Goes Tokyo  
145 Clydesdale Road, Byker  
Newcastle NE6 2EQ

It's hard to sum up this title in so few words. Andy Konkrykru, the driving force behind this, has assembled a vast range of artistic talent to produce individual panels in a series of anthology strips. Diverse, intelligent and often quite touching, this is teamwork at it's best. Konkrykru, always an innovator in sequential art, just cranked it up a notch. (AS) 8

## Sponge 2

by Askham; 90p from C. Askham  
9 Balmoral Grove, Colwich  
Nottingham NG4 2GB

This has all the components of a good story and brings them together nicely. Full of great characters, including the eponymous mad scientist. The humour is well executed in both dialogue and art. Pity it's not a bit longer, but still a bargain at 90p. (LO) 8

## Stiro 2

by Fortenski & Mardou;  
£2.50 from Smallzone  
10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ercall  
Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH

Anyone familiar with the humorous, slice-of-life works of Dan Clowes may recognise his influence on this 24-page black and white collection. The strips exude an eccentric charm that renders their slightly coarse execution forgivable – although what the book lacks in slickness is made up for with personality and supreme potential. (JE) 7

## Sundown in the Blood 2/3

by Bloor & Woolford;  
Clockwork Comics  
(contact details unknown)

It's a shame we don't know more about this title. It's book two of three, and it's pretty damn good. Treading the boards of vampire origin tales is a risky business, more often than not it's been done before, and better, but this tale, one of vampirism in the American wild west, is well told and beautifully executed. More please. (AS) 7

## Super Cookie Mix 1

by Harvey & Halden;  
£1 from J. Harvey  
Flat 553, Caerleon Campus  
Newport, Gwent NP18 3YG

"Highly uncollectable first issue, 100% guaranteed to depreciate in value." Never taking itself too seriously, this is like the fevered dreams of a pop culture junkie. A black and white cut-and-paste zine that reads more like an elaborate collage than a comic, it's a fun and easy read that I'm sure with a budget and colour printing could be the cool coffee table book of the future. (AS) 7

## Zip Gun Presents: Noir

by various; £1.50 from Smallzone  
10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ercall  
Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH

A competent 22-page black and white comic, an eclectic crime anthology that showcases amateur creators, originally produced for Caption 2002. John Bishop and Mignola/Miller-influenced Iain Buchanan are the stand-out contributors amongst the raw newcomers featured here. (JE) 6



## Alan R Cookson, 4 The Cloisters, Tarleton, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 6UL

This is only my second Comics International advert of 2003 but many items have changed due to the phenomenal response to last month's advert. I'd say that if you wish to cash in your collection, then look no further than Dez's fine magazine. Please call or write for a more detailed description of the condition of any of the comics listed below, all from my personal collection. I always tried to collect the highest grade possible, and once bought, each comic was read carefully and stored away as a brand new copy. All issues are cents copies unless stated otherwise. Your wants lists are welcome.

Postage and packing is £1 minimum charge + 50p per comic ordered. Bids welcome on expensive items & discounts for bulk purchases negotiable.

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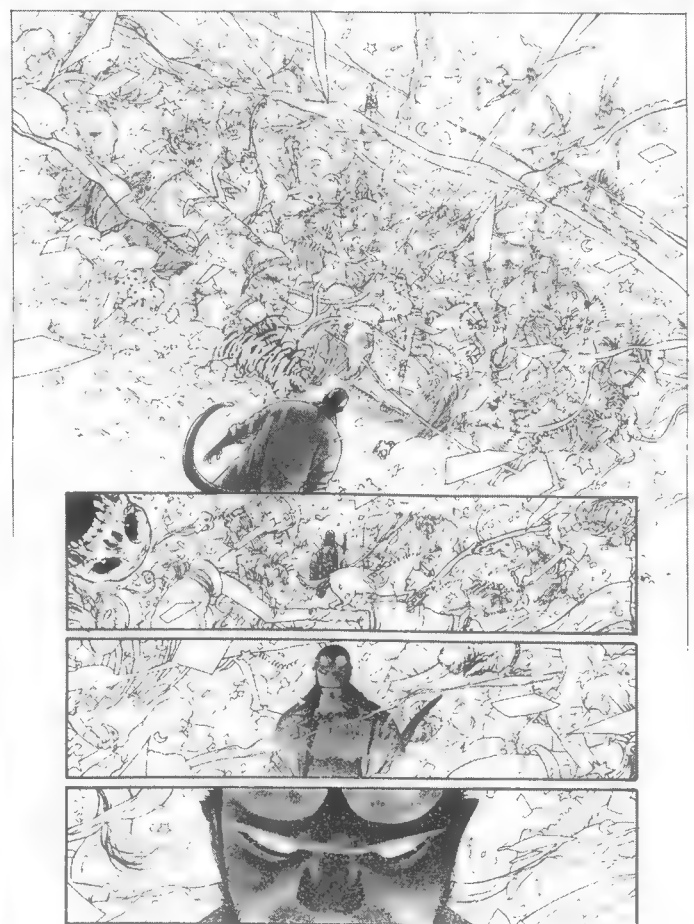


**Tel: 01772 814514 (home) 01772 816812 (work)**

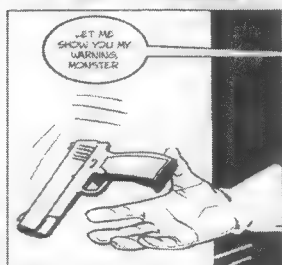
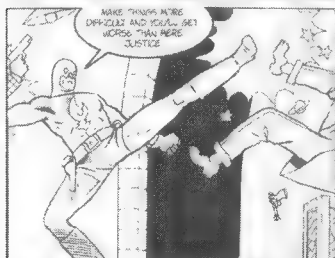


# Preview: Hellboy Anthology

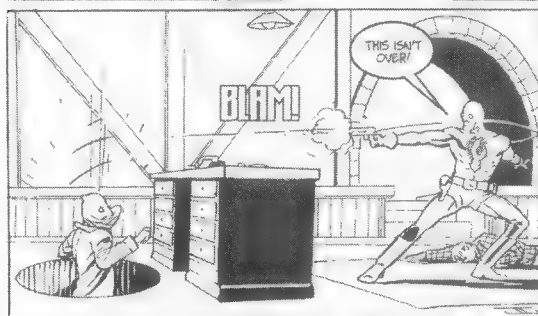
On these two pages we preview the cover art (below) and interiors from Dark Horse's forthcoming **Hellboy Anthology** #1, on sale February 26th, \$2.99. Promising "the best artists in comics", the series launches with cover and lead story (from a Fabian Nicieza script) by **Captain America's** John Cassaday.







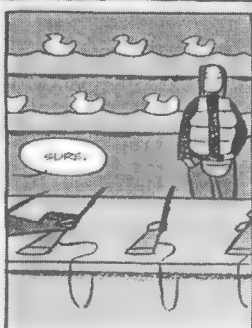
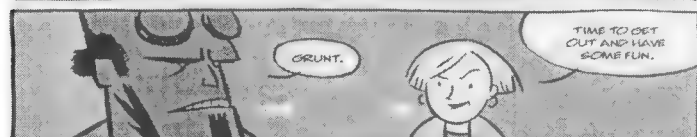
THE CRIMSON HOOD HITS A SECRET SWITCH ON HIS DESK!



TO BE



More from **Hellboy Anthology #1**. Above: Lobster Johnson (1940s spoof art by John Cassaday) nobbling a nefarious nimble Nazi. Below: the splash page of the **Hellboy: Party Pooper** story by Andi (Buffy) Watson.



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# Q&A

345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ

**Baffle us with comics questions, or save us with answers!**

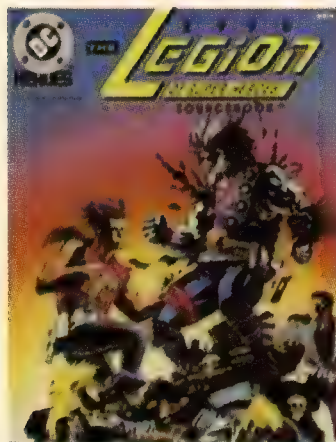
## RPG sourcebooks

Robert Storey, Northampton

HAVING searched unsuccessfully for a copy of the DC Heroes 2995 Legion of Super-Heroes Sourcebook on comics and book sites, can anyone suggest the best places to look on the Internet for RPG sourcebooks?

*The Q&A Brain Trust's Dez Skinn replies:* As it was published in 1992 (by Mayfair Games), you can safely assume that the 128 pager is decidedly out of print. But we did find Mayfair's *LS-H Volume II: The World Book* as a \$5 Buy-It-Now item on eBay, so chances are the one you want should turn up there soon.

Meanwhile, here's the cover by Jason Pearson and Karl Story...



## Zenith

Ewan Brownlow via e-mail:  
Ewan.Brownlow@t-mobile.co.uk

AS THE oracle of all comics knowledge, could you please answer me a quick question?

The *Zenith* series Titan reprints, books 1 to 5 (published early '90s); do they exist? Are they now out of print? Or, as I may have read in CI recently, are they now languishing in a warehouse somewhere subject to another copyright dispute? Your answer would be appreciated, as I'm looking to buy them.

*Dez again:* Your best bet for picking up the collections of Grant Morrison and Steve Yeowell's 2000 AD strip is to attempt to track down the five (rare as rocking horse shit) 1988-1990 Titan books. The new editions are still languishing, awaiting a resolution to said copyright dispute. Alternatively, you could pick up the 2000 AD issues themselves (progs 535-550, 558-559, 589-606, 627-634, 650-662, 667-670,

792-806). But that could take awhile. However there are also the Lee Moncho/Sal Quartuccio US "Quality" reprints with Zenith in 2000 AD Showcase #29-45 (1988-1990), handier and only as rare as dog shit.

## Avengers: The Legend?

Jason via e-mail:  
JJBOY@tinyworld.co.uk

WAS there ever a comicbook called *Avengers: The Legend*? When the Fantastic Four, Captain America and Iron Man comics returned to a new series each after the *Heroes Reborn* saga, Marvel produced a one-shot Legend special on each title. I'm sure that an Avengers oneshot came out, but I can't find it anywhere.

Am I dreaming?

*Dez again (wondering where everybody else is and why he wasn't invited):* The good news is you're dreaming. The bad news is you're writing letters to CI in your sleep. There were plenty of Avengers oneshots; *Hot Shots*, *Logs*, *Preludes*, *Strikefiles* and more, but no *Legends*.

## Death's Head 2

Paul Mennell, Lichfield

DEATH'S Head 2: great character so why is he still in limbo? Won't anybody pick him up and at least try a one-shot? Mr Ennis? And does #16 exist?

*You know who (feeling lonely):* Apparently, #16 does exist, Paul, written by Dan Abnett and drawn by Salvador Larocca, dated March 1994. The title was solicited up to #18 but killed prematurely when sales plummeted.

## Characters and copyright

Jimmy O'Ready via e-mail:  
jimmy.oready@atd.co.uk

DO YOU know an efficient way of checking whether the character names in my forthcoming six-part comicbook series are the copyright of another company?

Are you aware of any web resource of comicbook character names/series titles?

*Yeah, still me:* Bloody good idea, if there isn't one already, Jimmy – and we haven't heard of such. At the moment, the web fulfills the job simply by letting you do a search of any

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name you've thought of and seeing if any results comes up. Hardly a science, but fairly efficient, even if it doesn't exactly establish prior copyright claim.

We were once going to feature a

comics character named Silverine. So, to put search engines to the test, I just tried google.com and only found a band, a plant and a brand of pens.

Guess it works. Now we just have to get the character into print quickly!

## Answer Updates

Readers provide answers for previous issues' questions

### Marvel Bumper Comic update

Rob Kirby via e-mail

STRANGELY enough I was just clarifying some information on the Marvel Bumper Comic when I saw Peter Hodgson's letter in CI #154. The Bumper Comic was something of an oddity amongst the UK line-up at that time, being the company's last attempt at an old style boys weekly (during a period when Spider-Man wasn't appearing in his own comic), and being a title that precariously straddled the division between Marvel's juvenile and more mainstream titles.

Sorry to say I think Peter must be missing an issue, because the title actually folded with issue 31 (dated 22nd July, 1989), not issue 30, a few fortnights after a merger with Alf. Incidentally, the comic was initially preceded by a solitary Summer Special in July 1988, before the first regular issue appeared later that Autumn.

I find myself concurring only too readily with Lew Stringer, who accurately points out the overbearing snobbishness displayed in many quarters against British comics, and Marvel UK in particular, which explains many titles' consistently low profile in indices and price guides. But, getting back to the Marvel Bumper Comic: although it mainly consisted of a variety of UK (Doctor Who, The Real Ghostbusters), USA (Droids, Defenders of the Earth, etc.) and European (Souperman - just don't ask!) reprints, it did also contain one new UK series worthy of note: William Tell.

While the first two chapters of this tie-in to the (then new) William Tell TV series ran through issues 21-28 of the Marvel Bumper Comic, they were followed shortly after by the concluding chapter to this initial storyline but in the 1989 William Tell Summer Special! Although the whole storyline was gathered together in a full colour softback graphic novel later that same year, a further two part story ("The Stallion") then appeared at the year's end in Marvel's only William Tell Annual (with a 1989 copyright).

As with most Marvel UK comics from the mid-Eighties onwards, copies tend to turn up less and less frequently (Transformers excepted at the moment) so it's really just a case of keeping your eyes peeled for small adverts in CI or checking out some of those specialist dealers at marts and conventions. There's a lot more to recommend about many of these comics than some people may have had you believe in the past, but then I guess I would say that!

### The Spider #153

David Simpson via e-mail: [david-a-simpson@beeb.net](mailto:david-a-simpson@beeb.net)

RE ROGER Newson's request for info on The Spider in Q&A, CI #153:

According to Steve Holland's Fleetway Index, The Spider, assisted by the thuggish Ordini and long-haired scientist Pelham, ran in Lion from 26/06/65 to 26/04/69, with reprints following from 22/02/72 to 01/12/73. He also appeared in various Lion annuals and specials, plus reprints in Vulcan in the mid-seventies and the odd new adventure in latter day specials. He also starred in even-numbered issues of the pocket-sized comic Stupendous Series and, just to be overly completist, his adventures were reprinted in France in the late Seventies under the name Blackman.

Lew Stringer was right about Reg Bunn being the artist but wrong, as far as I know, in saying that Jerry Siegel created him. Issue three of Comics Analysis, published in 1973 by Mike Cruden, ran a letter from Robert Curran commenting on the previous issue which included the following: "My own article on The Spider, I hope introduced at least some people to a neglected field in comicdom. I'd like you to print this short addendum to the article, based on information from Dez Skinn and Chris Lowder. The Spider was created by Ted Cowan, who wrote the first two stories. Seigal wrote The Spider vs Dr. Mysterioso onwards. Apparently, Seigal came across a copy of Lion in the States and took a liking to the character of The Spider, so he submitted a few story synopses. Lion's editor, Geoffrey Kemp, liked them so he commissioned Seigal to write The Spider. However, Seigal had difficulty handling The Spider from America. Still, he wrote every one except the last, which was scripted by Ken Mennell, when he was dismissed because his scripts had become too fantastic."

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The Jeff Hawke Club gratefully acknowledges the assistance and permission given by the Daily Express helping us to create a club in memory of this superb strip.

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# Comics Economics

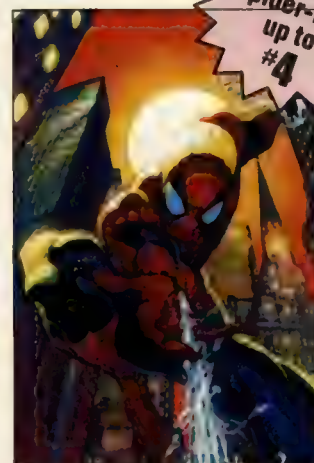
## The Top 100 US comicbook sales for February 2002

Batman  
still at  
#1



| Rank | Prior | Title, Issue, Price & Estimated Orders             | Publisher |
|------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1    | (=)   | <b>Batman #612</b> \$2.25 (125,095)                | DC Comics |
| 2    | (=)   | <b>Ultimate War #4</b> \$2.25 (108,295)            | Marvel    |
| 3    | (4)   | <b>Ultimates #9</b> \$2.25 (101,490)               | Marvel    |
| 4    | (6)   | <b>Amazing Spider-Man #50</b> \$2.25 (100,439)     | Marvel    |
| 5    | (4)   | <b>Ultimate Spider-Man #36</b> \$2.25 (98,475)     | Marvel    |
| 6    | (5)   | <b>New X-Men #137</b> \$2.25 (92,470)              | Marvel    |
| 7    | (8)   | <b>Ultimate X-Men #29</b> \$2.25 (84,789)          | Marvel    |
| 8    | (10)  | <b>Uncanny X-Men #419</b> \$2.25 (83,714)          | Marvel    |
| 9    | (14)  | <b>Wolverine #186</b> \$2.25 (63,911)              | Marvel    |
| 10   | (17)  | <b>Transformers: War Within #5</b> \$2.95 (61,847) | DreamWave |

Amazing  
Spider-Man  
up to  
#4



|                                                                    |      |                                                     |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 11                                                                 | (15) | <b>X-Treme X-Men #21</b> \$2.99 (60,233)            | Marvel         |
| 12                                                                 | (16) | <b>JLA #78</b> \$2.25 (60,183)                      | DC Comics      |
| 13                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Daredevil #43</b> \$2.99 (58,782)                | Marvel Knights |
| 14                                                                 | (28) | <b>Incredible Hulk #50</b> \$3.50 (58,682)          | Marvel         |
| 15                                                                 | (13) | <b>Daredevil #44</b> \$2.99 (58,494)                | Marvel Knights |
| 16                                                                 | (15) | <b>Spider-Man: Blue #6</b> \$3.50 (56,430)          | Marvel Knights |
| 17                                                                 | (18) | <b>Avengers #64</b> \$2.25 (52,753)                 | Marvel         |
| 18                                                                 | (19) | <b>Captain America #9</b> \$2.99 (52,627)           | Marvel Knights |
| 19                                                                 | (21) | <b>Green Arrow #21</b> \$2.50 (51,739)              | DC Comics      |
| ■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 50,000 |      |                                                     |                |
| 20                                                                 | (24) | <b>Fantastic Four #66</b> \$2.25 (48,512)           | Marvel         |
| 21                                                                 | (23) | <b>Peter Parker, Spider-Man #53</b> \$2.25 (48,312) | Marvel         |
| 22                                                                 | (11) | <b>Transformers: Armada #8</b> \$2.95 (46,961)      | DreamWave      |
| 23                                                                 | (20) | <b>Truth: Red White Black #4</b> \$3.50 (46,485)    | Marvel Knights |
| 24                                                                 | (26) | <b>GI Joe #15</b> \$2.95 (45,760)                   | Image          |
| 25                                                                 | (27) | <b>Hulk/Wolverine: 6 Hours #3</b> \$2.99 (43,496)   | Marvel         |
| 26                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Thundercats: The Return #1</b> \$2.95 (42,282)   | DC/WildStorm   |
| 27                                                                 | (30) | <b>Punisher #22</b> \$2.99 (41,356)                 | Marvel Knights |
| 28                                                                 | (25) | <b>Masters of the Universe #4</b> \$2.95 (41,269)   | Image          |
| 29                                                                 | (44) | <b>Action Comics #800</b> \$3.95 (40,318)           | DC Comics      |
| 30                                                                 | (33) | <b>JSA #45</b> \$2.50 (40,143)                      | DC Comics      |

|                                                                    |      |                                                    |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 40,000 |      |                                                    |                      |
| 31                                                                 | (34) | <b>Detective Comics #779</b> \$2.75 (37,616)       | DC Comics            |
| 32                                                                 | (36) | <b>Spawn #131</b> \$2.95 (36,703)                  | Image/TMP            |
| 33                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Astro City: Local Heroes #1</b> \$2.95 (36,353) | WildStorm            |
| 34                                                                 | (38) | <b>Aquaman #3</b> \$2.50 (36,215)                  | DC Comics            |
| 35                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Green Lantern #159</b> \$2.25 (35,990)          | DC Comics            |
| 36                                                                 | (32) | <b>GI Joe Frontline #5</b> \$2.95 (35,364)         | Image                |
| 37                                                                 | (39) | <b>Exiles #22</b> \$2.25 (35,239)                  | Marvel               |
| 38                                                                 | (40) | <b>X-Men Unlimited #42</b> \$3.50 (34,489)         | Marvel               |
| 39                                                                 | (40) | <b>Thor #60</b> \$2.25 (34,414)                    | Marvel               |
| 40                                                                 | (29) | <b>Thor #59</b> \$2.25 (34,376)                    | Marvel               |
| 41                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Rawhide Kid #1</b> \$2.99 (34,001)              | Marvel/MAX           |
| 42                                                                 | (31) | <b>Iron Man #65</b> \$2.25 (32,600)                | Marvel               |
| 43                                                                 | (41) | <b>X-Statix #8</b> \$2.25 (32,512)                 | Marvel               |
| 44                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Rising Stars: Bright #1</b> \$2.99 (32,475)     | Top Cow/Joe's Comics |
| 45                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Vertigo X Preview</b> \$0.99 (32,325)           | DC/Vertigo           |
| 46                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Superman #190</b> \$2.25 (31,937)               | DC Comics            |
| 47                                                                 | (45) | <b>Batman: Gotham Knights #38</b> \$2.75 (30,823)  | DC Comics            |
| 48                                                                 | (43) | <b>Weapon X #6</b> \$2.25 (30,698)                 | Marvel               |
| 49                                                                 | (47) | <b>Hawkman #12</b> \$2.50 (30,085)                 | DC Comics            |

|                                                                    |      |                                                    |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| ■ International direct market retail orders estimated below 30,000 |      |                                                    |           |
| 50                                                                 | (49) | <b>Batgirl #37</b> \$2.50 (29,835)                 | DC Comics |
| 51                                                                 | (39) | <b>Battle of the Planets #7</b> \$2.99 (29,748)    | Image     |
| 52                                                                 | (48) | <b>Adventures of Superman #613</b> \$2.25 (29,322) | DC Comics |
| 53                                                                 | (51) | <b>Captain Marvel #6</b> \$2.25 (28,859)           | Marvel    |
| 54                                                                 | (53) | <b>Nightwing #78</b> \$2.25 (28,809)               | DC Comics |

|                                                                    |      |                                                                 |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 55                                                                 | (57) | <b>Batgirl: Year One #3</b> \$2.95 (28,622)                     | DC Comics       |
| 56                                                                 | (37) | <b>Robotech #3</b> \$2.95 (28,584)                              | DC Comics       |
| 57                                                                 | (46) | <b>Superman &amp; Batman Generations III #2</b> \$2.95 (28,384) | DC Comics       |
| 58                                                                 | (52) | <b>Agent X #8</b> \$2.25 (27,383)                               | Marvel          |
| 59                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Elektra #21</b> \$2.99 (27,283)                              | Marvel          |
| 60                                                                 | (58) | <b>Flash #195</b> \$2.25 (27,258)                               | DC Comics       |
| 61                                                                 | (56) | <b>Paradise X: Ragnarok #2</b> \$2.99 (27,158)                  | Marvel          |
| 62                                                                 | (60) | <b>Alias #19</b> \$2.99 (26,583)                                | Marvel/MAX      |
| 63                                                                 | (77) | <b>Wonder Woman #189</b> \$2.25 (26,320)                        | DC Comics       |
| 64                                                                 | (62) | <b>Powers #29</b> \$2.95 (25,982)                               | Image           |
| 65                                                                 | (63) | <b>Batman: Legends o/ Dark Knight #164</b> \$2.50 (25,607)      | DC Comics       |
| 66                                                                 | (72) | <b>Thunderbolts #76</b> \$2.25 (25,432)                         | Marvel          |
| 67                                                                 | (64) | <b>Spider-Man Legend o/ Spider Clan #5</b> \$2.25 (25,219)      | Marvel          |
| 68                                                                 | (65) | <b>Birds of Prey #52</b> \$2.50 (24,406)                        | DC Comics       |
| 69                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Lady Death #1 - A Medieval Tale</b> \$2.95 (24,068)          | CrossGen/Code 6 |
| 70                                                                 | (82) | <b>Supergirl #79</b> \$2.50 (23,931)                            | DC Comics       |
| 71                                                                 | (66) | <b>JLA/Spectre: Soul War #2</b> \$5.95 (23,418)                 | DC Comics       |
| 72                                                                 | (67) | <b>Catwoman #16</b> \$2.50 (23,393)                             | DC Comics       |
| 73                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Spider-Girl #57</b> \$2.25 (23,330)                          | Marvel          |
| 74                                                                 | (68) | <b>Tomb Raider #28</b> \$2.99 (23,005)                          | Image/Top Cow   |
| 75                                                                 | (71) | <b>Legion #17</b> \$2.50 (23,005)                               | DC Comics       |
| 76                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Fathom #1/2</b> \$2.99 (22,967)                              | Image/Top Cow   |
| 77                                                                 | (74) | <b>Star Wars Empire #6</b> \$2.99 (22,892)                      | Dark Horse      |
| 78                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Superman: Metropolis #1</b> \$2.95 (22,880)                  | DC Comics       |
| 79                                                                 | (84) | <b>Fables #10</b> \$2.50 (22,705)                               | DC Comics       |
| 80                                                                 | (79) | <b>Sojourn #20</b> \$2.95 (22,692)                              | CrossGen        |
| 81                                                                 | (N)  | <b>Birds of Prey: Catwoman Batgirl #1</b> \$5.95 (22,580)       | DC Comics       |
| 82                                                                 | (75) | <b>Robin #111</b> \$2.25 (22,517)                               | DC Comics       |
| 83                                                                 | (=)  | <b>Young Justice #54</b> \$2.75 (22,342)                        | DC Comics       |
| 84                                                                 | (91) | <b>Y: The Last Man #8</b> \$2.95 (21,779)                       | DC Comics       |
| 85                                                                 | (70) | <b>Fantastic Four: Unstable Molecules #2</b> \$2.99             | Marvel          |
| 86                                                                 | (81) | <b>Batman/Aliens II #3</b> \$5.95 (21,079)                      | DC Comics       |
| 87                                                                 | (N)  | <b>JSA: Unholy Three #1</b> \$6.95 (21,041)                     | DC Comics       |
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| 90                                                                 | (85) | <b>Mekanix #5</b> \$2.99 (20,928)                               | Marvel          |
| 91                                                                 | (87) | <b>Filth #9</b> \$2.95 (20,616)                                 | DC Comics       |
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| 27th £2.00                              | 180th £2.00 | 112th £5.00                     | 24th £3.50 | 59th £4.00                             | 33rd £5.00                              | 38th £5.00 | 16th £5.00                                  | 24th £3.00                       | 26th £2.00                            |
| 27th £2.00                              | 181st £2.00 | 113th £5.00                     | 25th £3.50 | 60th £4.00                             | 34th £5.00                              | 39th £5.00 | 17th £5.00                                  | 25th £3.00                       | 27th £2.00                            |
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| 157th £7.50                             | 194th £2.00 | 126th £5.00                     | 38th £3.50 | 73rd £4.00                             | 47th £5.00                              | 52nd £5.00 | 30th £5.00                                  | 38th £3.00                       | 40th £2.00                            |
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| 163rd £6.00                             | 197th £2.00 | 129th £5.00                     | 41st £3.50 | 76th £4.00                             | 50th £5.00                              | 55th £5.00 | 33rd £5.00                                  | 41st £3.00                       | 43rd £2.00                            |
| 168th £6.00                             | 198th £2.00 | 130th £5.00                     | 42nd £3.50 | 77th £4.00                             | 51st £5.00                              | 56th £5.00 | 34th £5.00                                  | 42nd £3.00                       | 44th £2.00                            |
| Amazing Spider-Man<br>Annual 14th £3.00 | 199th £2.00 | 131st £5.00                     | 43rd £3.50 | 78th £4.00                             | 52nd £5.00                              | 57th £5.00 | 35th £5.00                                  | 43rd £3.00                       | 45th £2.00                            |
| Adaptation - deluxe<br>1st £2.00        | 200th £2.00 | 132nd £5.00                     | 44th £3.50 | 79th £4.00                             | 53rd £5.00                              | 58th £5.00 | 36th £5.00                                  | 44th £3.00                       | 46th £2.00                            |
| Aquaman (1st series)<br>27th £4.00      | 201st £2.00 | 133rd £5.00                     | 45th £3.50 | 80th £4.00                             | 54th £5.00                              | 59th £5.00 | 37th £5.00                                  | 45th £3.00                       | 47th £2.00                            |
| 46th £2.00                              | 202nd £2.00 | 134th £5.00                     | 46th £3.50 | 81st £4.00                             | 55th £5.00                              | 60th £5.00 | 38th £5.00                                  | 46th £3.00                       | 48th £2.00                            |
| 48th £2.00                              | 203rd £2.00 | 135th £5.00                     | 47th £3.50 | 82nd £4.00                             | 56th £5.00                              | 61st £5.00 | 39th £5.00                                  | 47th £3.00                       | 49th £2.00                            |
| 57th £2.00                              | 204th £2.00 | 136th £5.00                     | 48th £3.50 | 83rd £4.00                             | 57th £5.00                              | 62nd £5.00 | 40th £5.00                                  | 48th £3.00                       | 50th £2.00                            |
| Atlanthian Tales<br>5th £3.50           | 205th £2.00 | 137th £5.00                     | 49th £3.50 | 84th £4.00                             | 58th £5.00                              | 63rd £5.00 | 41th £5.00                                  | 49th £3.00                       | 51st £2.00                            |
| 5th £3.50                               | 206th £2.00 | 138th £5.00                     | 50th £3.50 | 85th £4.00                             | 59th £5.00                              | 64th £5.00 | 42th £5.00                                  | 50th £3.00                       | 52nd £2.00                            |
| 25th £4.00                              | 207th £2.00 | 139th £5.00                     | 51st £3.50 | 86th £4.00                             | 60th £5.00                              | 65th £5.00 | 43th £5.00                                  | 51st £3.00                       | 53rd £2.00                            |
| 27th £4.00                              | 208th £2.00 | 140th £5.00                     | 52nd £3.50 | 87th £4.00                             | 61st £5.00                              | 66th £5.00 | 44th £5.00                                  | 52nd £3.00                       | 54th £2.00                            |
| 28th £3.50                              | 209th £2.00 | 141st £5.00                     | 53rd £3.50 | 88th £4.00                             | 62nd £5.00                              | 67th £5.00 | 45th £5.00                                  | 53rd £3.00                       | 55th £2.00                            |
| 28th £5.00                              | 210th £2.00 | 142nd £5.00                     | 54th £3.50 | 89th £4.00                             | 63rd £5.00                              | 68th £5.00 | 46th £5.00                                  | 54th £3.00                       | 56th £2.00                            |
| 30th £4.00                              | 211th £2.00 | 143rd £5.00                     | 55th £3.50 | 90th £4.00                             | 64th £5.00                              | 69th £5.00 | 47th £5.00                                  | 55th £3.00                       | 57th £2.00                            |
| 32nd £3.50                              | 212th £2.00 | 144th £5.00                     | 56th £3.50 | 91st £4.00                             | 65th £5.00                              | 70th £5.00 | 48th £5.00                                  | 56th £3.00                       | 58th £2.00                            |
| 33rd £3.50                              | 213th £2.00 | 145th £5.00                     | 57th £3.50 | 92nd £4.00                             | 66th £5.00                              | 71st £5.00 | 49th £5.00                                  | 57th £3.00                       | 59th £2.00                            |
| 34th £3.50                              | 214th £2.00 | 146th £5.00                     | 58th £3.50 | 93rd £4.00                             | 67th £5.00                              | 72nd £5.00 | 50th £5.00                                  | 58th £3.00                       | 60th £2.00                            |
| 35th £3.50                              | 215th £2.00 | 147th £5.00                     | 59th £3.50 | 94th £4.00                             | 68th £5.00                              | 73rd £5.00 | 51st £5.00                                  | 59th £3.00                       | 61st £2.00                            |
| 36th £3.50                              | 216th £2.00 | 148th £5.00                     | 60th £3.50 | 95th £4.00                             | 69th £5.00                              | 74th £5.00 | 52nd £5.00                                  | 60th £3.00                       | 62nd £2.00                            |
| Atom<br>12th £3.00                      | 217th £2.00 | 149th £5.00                     | 61st £3.50 | 96th £4.00                             | 70th £5.00                              | 75th £5.00 | 53rd £5.00                                  | 61st £3.00                       | 63rd £2.00                            |
| 16th £4.00                              | 218th £2.00 | 150th £5.00                     | 62nd £3.50 | 97th £4.00                             | 71st £5.00                              | 76th £5.00 | 54th £5.00                                  | 62nd £3.00                       | 64th £2.00                            |
| 21st £4.00                              | 219th £2.00 | 151st £5.00                     | 63rd £3.50 | 98th £4.00                             | 72nd £5.00                              | 77th £5.00 | 55th £5.00                                  | 63rd £3.00                       | 65th £2.00                            |
| 24th £2.50                              | 220th £2.00 | 152nd £5.00                     | 64th £3.50 | 99th £4.00                             | 73rd £5.00                              | 78th £5.00 | 56th £5.00                                  | 64th £3.00                       | 66th £2.00                            |
| Avengers<br>68th £4.00                  | 221st £2.00 | 153rd £5.00                     | 65th £3.50 | 100th £4.00                            | 74th £5.00                              | 79th £5.00 | 57th £5.00                                  | 65th £3.00                       | 67th £2.00                            |
| 96th £5.00                              | 222nd £2.00 | 154th £5.00                     | 66th £3.50 | 101st £4.00                            | 75th £5.00                              | 80th £5.00 | 58th £5.00                                  | 66th £3.00                       | 68th £2.00                            |
| 133rd £4.00                             | 223rd £2.00 | 155th £5.00                     | 67th £3.50 | 102nd £4.00                            | 76th £5.00                              | 81st £5.00 | 59th £5.00                                  | 67th £3.00                       | 69th £2.00                            |
| 138th £5.00                             | 224th £2.00 | 156th £5.00                     | 68th £3.50 | 103rd £4.00                            | 77th £5.00                              | 82nd £5.00 | 60th £5.00                                  | 68th £3.00                       | 70th £2.00                            |
| 145th £4.00                             | 225th £2.00 | 157th £5.00                     | 69th £3.50 | 104th £4.00                            | 78th £5.00                              | 83rd £5.00 | 61st £5.00                                  | 69th £3.00                       | 71th £2.00                            |
| 162nd £3.50                             | 226th £2.00 | 158th £5.00                     | 70th £3.50 | 105th £4.00                            | 79th £5.00                              | 84th £5.00 | 62nd £5.00                                  | 70th £3.00                       | 72nd £2.00                            |
| 163rd £3.00                             | 227th £2.00 | 159th £5.00                     | 71st £3.50 | 106th £4.00                            | 80th £5.00                              | 85th £5.00 | 63rd £5.00                                  | 71st £3.00                       | 73rd £2.00                            |
| 194th £3.00                             | 228th £2.00 | 160th £5.00                     | 72nd £3.50 | 107th £4.00                            | 81st £5.00                              | 86th £5.00 | 64th £5.00                                  | 72nd £3.00                       | 74th £2.00                            |
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# Movers & Shakers

The latest comicbook views, speculations, gossip and rumours

Reported by those diggers and delvers ITMA and the CI team of ITMites

## By popular demand...

WE'RE truly touched. You missed us. Ahh, nice. For reasons too complex to detail here, *Movers* has been absent for far too many months. But, suffice to say, the court case is off and we're back on!

## DC sweats it out

ON TOP of any jitters over at the DC offices due to losing sales ground to Marvel, a big shake-up for their owners might just push them into ultra-jitters. Ted Turner has decided to quit his post as vice chairman of AOL Time Warner, creating a vacuum waiting to be filled by cost-cutting wannabe CEOs eager to please dishevelled shareholders.

Media mogul Turner will step down in May, the company announced on January 29. This coincides with sameday AOL news of a record \$98 billion loss last year.

DC staff and freelancers doubtless see this leading to planned projects being shelved and new lines axed, as a company policy of "big-gun projects only" could come into force. Expect a glut of freelancers knocking on every other publisher's door soon.

## Trump that!



ONE ITMite alerted us to a new investment market with the following: "My girlfriend listed two packs of old **Marvel Top Trumps** cards on eBay, and we were both a bit stunned at the final bid price. The **Super Top Trumps Heroes** set sold for £37.00 and the villains set went for £41.00.

"These cards were produced in 1988, and at 25p a set were cheaper than a US import at the time. Is there a comic produced in the late 1980s which has done this well?"

Not many, but Eclipse's **Miracleman** #15 from the same period regularly fetches around £60-£80 on eBay, due to its US scarcity, despite being in abundance in the UK. DC's **Sandman** #1, from early '89, only fetches around £20 while other early Vertigo titles struggle for

half that price. On the flip side, **Batman - The Cult** was peaking at prices of £45 in 1989 in many stores, yet is now less than cover price.

## Consider it trumped

ANOTHER ITMite emailed us a couple of months back with an even better hand. "In light of the recent interest surrounding **2000 AD**'s 25th birthday, I thought you may be interested to know that **2000 AD Prog 2** (the first Judge Dredd) in mint condition with free gift recently sold on eBay's auction site for £365, way above guide price. Prog 1 in mint condition with free gift went for £230, which is also above guide."

OK, so it's 10 years earlier than the Top Trumps cards, but from an original 8p cover price, it's probably the best sales figure a **2000 AD** comic has seen in a long time.

## A Mirror Crack'd

**CRACKED Magazine**, number two in a field of one, just won't say die. The publishers took a year to produce a new issue, boasting that the sales doubled. But then, it did have a long shelf life as the next issue, #359, took

a further six months to come out.

At this rate, they'll be celebrating their five hundredth issue about the time Buck Rogers meets Tweaky.

## Think of a figure...

STILL catching up: Smilin' Stan Lee's grin continues to fade. Two brothers were convicted in December of federal fraud charges for writing cheques from empty bank accounts, costing Stan's now-defunct Internet company and two financial institutions more than \$10 million.

Coincidentally, as reported in December's **CI** #153, Lee is suing Marvel for \$10 million, relating to Spider-Man movie profits. Meanwhile, Steve Ditko merely broods.

## Kewl or wot?

**TIME**'s Andrew Arnold has released his list of Best Comix of 2002 on Time.com. The 'x' in comix obviously denotes his coolness:

**Epileptic Vol I** by David B.

**Boulevard of Broken Dreams** by Kim Deitch

**Krazy & Ignatz 1925-26** by Herriman

Both 9/11 books (DC & Top Shelf)

**Rosetta** (international anthology)

**100 Demons** by Lynda Barry  
**Eightball #22** by Dan Clowes  
**Summer of Love** by Debbie Drechsler  
**Promethea** by Alan Moore & JH Williams III  
**SPX 2002** (small press anthology)



The first new **Miracleman** item to be released in nearly a decade comes from new "owner" Todd McFarlane as an April-shipping resin statue. Promo photos seem to show that the likeness was based on that other loveable British institution, Moxey from Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. Rumour has it that the follow-up **Young Marvelman** will be based on Tommy Steele and Kid Marvelman on **The Bill's** DI Burnside ("Like God, Liz, I move in mysterious ways.")



It's only supposed to be escapism, but comics do have the habit of accidentally hitting on delicate subjects. We've been wanting to use the visual (right) for ages, and now DC has given us the excuse. This mid-80s Marvel graphic novel (#17 in the series) cover depicts the Living Monolith destroying one of the Twin Towers with a single punch. A turkey, it used to be worth around £1.50, but if a copy resurfaced now, it would surely go for top dollar to any WTC ephemera collector (you mean you don't believe there are any? Come on!). DC now has the quandry of whether to release or hold off on its new \$25 graphic novel **Orbiter**, written by the highly bankable Warren Ellis. Talk about bad timing... This new 104 page Colleen Doran drawn hardcover tells of missing space shuttle **Venture** crashing to earth with devastating results. With the Columbia shuttle disaster only weeks before **Orbiter** was announced (presumably too late to pull the **Previews** ad), will the \$25 price tag be enough of a sweetener for DC to go ahead? We hope not. But, as of Monday, February 10th, the book's still listed on DC's website for April 23 shipping.







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# Letters

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## Marvel Directory

David Wiggins via e-mail:  
davidwiggins@amsolve.com

MAY I thank Tony Stepton for providing details of the Marvel Directory website (#155). It's just what I've been looking for!

Cheers Tony.

## Where is CI?

Andy Wallace via e-mail  
(address withheld by request)

I ENJOY my monthly fix of CI, but am starting to worry. I have #152, but am waiting on #153 and 154. And I am aware that #155 came out recently.

What's happened? My local comic shop doesn't know and the website doesn't say.

In brief, we publish every four weeks without fail. Most UK stores buy direct from us, but a small number (obviously including your LCS, Andy) get their copies from Diamond, who publish their *Previews* ordering tome monthly. Because Diamond has been listing one CI per issue, they've fallen behind. We've rectified this with no less than a triple listing in their next issue. ...Dez

## CI #153 and 154

LPR52@aol.com

BIG time comics collector here just wondering why these two issues were so late in getting to my local comic shop. I hate waiting for new issues to come out and when they are this late I wonder what the hell is happening at your end.

#153 should have come out in November and then I find that I have two issues to read come payday – which I guess is my reward for being so patient.

Anyway, keep up the good work and try to release the issues on the

actual date they're supposed to come out please.

*Bet the reply to Andy Wallace has really embarrassed you, LPR. Thanks for the compliment, but shame on you for blaming us after all this time.*

## Where is Movers?

Bash via e-mail:  
design@phonemedia.co.uk

HELLO from a very satisfied reader. I have been collecting comics for over 24 years and I'm only 30!

Anyhoo, I was wondering where *Movers and Shakers* is. It's the first thing I turn to every issue and I invariably read it in Ace Comics before handing over my money. (Luckily the folks at the shop are pretty understanding – thanks Biff, Kerry, Guy and the rest.)

PS: Did you know how bloody hard it is to get a copy of CI in Sydney?

*There's got to be a joke in that Sydney comment, but we're not cheap enough to go for such comments as "Try KY Jelly".*

*As for Movers... it's back! We had a couple of months of interesting behind the scenes shenanigans, but it's all resolved seemingly.*

## Daredevil

Martin Gray via e-mail:  
martingray1@hotmail.com

GARY Eliot's *Daredevil* movie piece was a nice change of pace for CI. I wonder if it some readers skipped over it, with the spread looking for all the world like a straightforward feature piece. I certainly did on first looking at this issue – I thought, oh, another *Daredevil* movie puff, ignore.

Luckily a wiser head pointed out that I might enjoy it; and I did. I laughed like Billy-club. It was just nice to see a humorous take on the

world of comics to film, and while the tone was a tad tentative at times, there were plenty of good gags in there. Let's see more from Gary, and anyone else who fancies having a crack at something in a similar vein.

In other news... O-ho, so Dave Bishop uses the same comic shop as me (FP Edinburgh). Does he ever ask me for a coffee for old times' sake? Does he heck. Bad Thargy!

## ...and, on #155

Martin Gray via e-mail:  
martingray1@hotmail.com

I'D LIKE to express my appreciation to C. Cox for explaining that *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* shouldn't have its various protagonists side by side (*Letters*).

It's a disgrace that where Captain Nemo, Dr Jekyll and the rest of these historical characters should be portrayed as dead, they're having a gay old time saving Victorian London from perils aplenty. Alan Moore and Kevin O'Neill seem to be treating the characters as if they are fictional. These charlatans should bow their heads in shame.

What's more – and I'm amazed a reader as astute as C. Cox didn't point this out (unless you culled his letter for fear of reprisal) – the version of England in the series is almost entirely wrong, with its floating airships, outlandish bridges and women who speak their minds.

It's damned insulting is what it is. Would you happen to know if we readers could pursue this matter through the Small Claims Court? I wouldn't want financial recompense, but one does require an apology for the humiliation rained on us by these cads.

I haven't felt so angry since that American boulder Superman was brought back from his allegedly dead state by those terrible people at DC Comics (not coincidentally, LOEG publisher ABC's holding company). How could they bring him back to a state of vitality after telling

trusting readers that he was gone forever? As well as the upset caused to my delicate sensibilities, I lost a mint due to the several copies of key issue *Superman 75* I had arranged be graded and slabbled in Plasticine.

In other matters, where's *Movers*? That's two issues we've not had the ITMA input (doesn't that acronym somewhat date us?).

And how could you resist telling your pal Ron Bennett that Slam Bradley is already back, as a regular in DC's *Catwoman* series (possibly he knows and was being ironic)? It's great to see one of the fathers of fandom appear in the cleverly titled *Letters*.

Interesting *Reviews* as ever, but could you explain how Robotman's existence is Cartesian, as suggested by Alex Thompson in his review of *Doom Patrol*? I looked the word up in the dictionary, but couldn't see how it applied. Unless it refers to Cliff Steele's downwardly spiraling depression. Actually, that must be it. Hey, CI is improving to a boy.

Actually, still on Alex – star of *Reviews* this time, along with (my chum, but never mind, he did well) Terence Stewart for his fabbie review of *Wonder Woman* – I adored his *Captain America* summation, especially "Cap spouts righteous toss". Spot on, sir. I managed two issues of this jingoistic crap (I'm less eloquent than Alex, who I'm possibly wrongly assuming is a Boy Alex).

Anyway, that's it, really. Just want to let you know I appreciate everyone's efforts, especially the reviewers.

## A CI lifer

Scott Fraser via e-mail:  
Fraseryorke@aol.com

HAVE just read #155 and wanted to say how much I enjoy the magazine. I have read CI since issue #1 and although the comics I buy change, it has always remained on my buying list.

Perhaps it's time I subscribed...

## Mike Kazybrid's COMIC CUTS



Send your script ideas to the above address and you receive the original art if yours is published.

## Script by Paul Kristian



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 Brian Bolland Art ..... [www.velouria.com/Bolland](http://www.velouria.com/Bolland)  
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### On-line comics companies:

By popular demand, CI now runs an at-a-glance overview of the major sites for on-line comics collectors and creators. Have your company listed for only £5 (US \$8) a month. Bookable in 6-issue blocks, companies wishing to be included should send £30 or US \$40 (UK: please add £5.25 to cover VAT) with trading name and website address.

♦ Major companies requiring bold and boxed entries should send £60 + £10.50 VAT per 6-issue series, US \$80 (£10/\$16 per issue) and may add three lines of descriptive copy. Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International and sent to: Internet Listings, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JW. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail details to: [Listings@comicsinternational.com](mailto:Listings@comicsinternational.com)



# Retail Index: UK

## Key to the abbreviations used:

imp = air imported new issues  
back = back issues stocked  
gn = graphic novels  
tpbk = trade paperbacks  
STO = standing order service (new comics reserved)  
s-p = small press and fanzines

ind = independent comics  
u/g = underground comix  
prl = peripherals/supplies  
RPG = role playing games  
CCG = customisable card games  
merch = trading cards, videos, t-shirts, posters, etc  
Sorry, no websites, this is a shop guide

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

## Central London

**Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, Battersea, London SW11 5QJ. Mon-Thurs 10-5.45; Fri 10-6.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 11-3.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 020 7924 3609

**Book & Comic Exchange**, 14 Pembridge Road, Notting Hill Gate, London W11. Mon-Sun 10-8. Nothing legal refused! (back, ind, u/g) 020 7229 8420

**Comic Showcase** 63 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0NE. Sun-Wed 10-7; Thurs-Fri 10-8; Sat 9.30-8 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, cartoon books, original art) 020 7434 4349

**Forbidden Planet Superstore**, 71-75 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG. Mon-Wed/Sat 10-6; Thurs-Fri 10-7 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi, fantasy, books, video, games, mags, kits, toys) 020 7420 3666

**Gosh!**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (opposite British Museum). Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, foreign, largest range newspaper strip compilations in UK) 020 7636 1011

**Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness Street, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ. Mon-Sun 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV, fantasy/horror, body art, subculture) 020 7485 9320

**Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftsbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EH. Mon-Wed 10.30-6.30; Thurs-Sat 10-7; Sun 10-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV/fantasy) 020 7836 5630

**Orbital**, 9 Old Compton Street, London W1. Mon-Sat 10.30-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, manga, toys, Star Wars) 020 7434 9363

## Outer London

**A Place in Space**, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, prl, merch, sci-fi, original art) 020 8686 2400

**Ashecan Ltd**, 3 Eagle Star House, 299-301 High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1LG. Tues-Wed/Fri 12-5; Thurs 9-6; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 020 8770 3815

**Atomic Comics**, 1112 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 4AH. Mon-Thurs 10.30-5.30; Wed 1-5.30; Thurs 10.30-6; Fri 10.30-6.30; Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, art books, Games Workshop, toys, kits) 020 8597 8547

**Calamity Comics**, 160 Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2HR. Mon-Wed 10-6; (Thurs-Fri to 7); Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 020 8427 3831

**Forbidden Planet**, 175 North End,

Croydon CR0 1TP. Mon-Fri 10-6; (Thurs to 7); Sat 9.30-6. (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch) 020 8688 7190

**Into the Void**, 262 Streatham High Road, Streatham SW16 1HS. Mon-Sat 9.30-7; Sun 11-3. (imp, back, STO, merch, toys) 020 8677 7037

**Krypton Comics**, 252 High Road, Tottenham, London N15 4AJ (next to Tesco) Mon-Fri 10.30-6; Sat 10-6. Nearest Tube: Seven Sisters Road. (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind) 020 8801 5378 fax: 8376 3174

**They Walk Among Us**, 26 Red Lion Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1RW. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6); Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, fantasy/sci-fi/horror, subculture) tel/fax: 020 8948 8476

**30th Century Comics**, 18 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1JP. Mon-Wed 10.30-6; Thurs-Fri 10.30-7; Sat 10.30-6; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, Gold/Silver/Bronze Age specialists, British comics/annuals, books) 020 8788 2052

## South East

**Ace Comics**, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch) 01206 561912

**The American Comic Shop**, 1 Church Street, Chatham, Kent ME4 4BS (off High Street). Mon-Fri 10-5.30 (Tues until 5); Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, action figures) 01634 817410

**Calamity Comics 2**, 90 Queens Road, The Broadway, Watford WD1 2LA. Mon-Tues 10-5.30; Thurs/Fri 10-7; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, fantasy film/TV, books, videos) 01923 249293

**Cartoon Shop**, 19 East Square, Basildon, Essex SS14 1HT. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01268 534194

**Central City Comics**, 4 Eagle Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1JB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, foreign) 01473 233017

**Chaos City**, 20 Heritage Close, (off High Street), St Albans, Herts AL3 4EB. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30; Fri 10-7.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, RPG, CCG, merch) 01727 838719

**Comic Showcase**, 19-20 St Clements Street, Oxford OX4 1AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01865 723680

**Comics Unlimited**, Unit 11, The Arcade, Letchworth, Herts. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (closed Wed) (imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, videos, Games W/shop) 01462 480018

**Comix-shop.co.uk**, 7a High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JN. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, tpbk, gn, merch, CCG, toys) 01628 777998

**David's Comic Shop**, 5 Sydney Street,

Brighton, Sussex BN1 4EN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.45; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g) 01273 691012

**Daydream Nation Trading Cards at Hive**, 6 Kensington Gardens, Brighton BN1 4AL. Mon-Sat 10-6 (CCGs, cards, sports, Ultra-Pro) 01273 687 877

**Forbidden Planet**, 60 Burleigh Street, Cambridge CB1 1DJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, CCG, merch, videos, sci-fi/fantasy books, film/TV magazines) 01223 301666

**Forbidden Planet**, 44 The Priory Centre, Dartford, Kent DA1 2HS. Mon-Wed 10.30-5.30; Thurs-Sat 10-5.30 (back, gn, ind, PRG, CCG, merch) 01322 224837

**Incognito Comic Shop**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 11-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film/TV) tel/fax: 01227 785898

**Into the Void**, 324-325 Chertwell North, Top Floor, Victoria Plaza, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 5SR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 01702 613021

**Into the Void**, 61 Lower Ground Floor, Lakeside Shopping Centre, West Thurrock, Essex RM20 1WT. Mon-Fri 10-10; Sat 9-7.30; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, prl, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, art, statues) 01708 862675

**Off World: The Sci-Fi Store**, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton LU1 2TP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, STO, s-p, CCG, merch, Star Trek/Wars, sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

**Phoenix Fantasy**, 9 Market Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1EU. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch) 01843 224768

**Slough Computers**, 50 Village Shopping Centre, Slough, Berks SL1 1HP. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, STO, ind, cards, second hand computer games) 01753 521594

**Speeding Bullet Comics**, 43 Hermitage Road, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1BY. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Wed 10-5); Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, s-p, merch, STO, CCG, action figures, original artwork, life-size Spidey mannequin for hire) 01462 451117

**Whatever Comics**, 2 Burgate Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2HH. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, kits) 01227 453226

**Whatever Comics**, 5 Middle Row, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1TF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, model kits) 01622 681041

## Midlands

**Abstract Sprocket**, 29 St Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk NR2 4PF. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01603 624410

**Another World**, 42/43 Main Centre (opposite Wilkinsons) Derby. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, merch, rock/film/TV memorabilia, computer games) 01332 206606

**Another World**, 23 Silver Street, Leicester LE1 5EU. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, alchemy metalware, rock memorabilia) 0116 2515266

**Another World**, 11 Market Street, Nottingham. Mon-Fri 9-5.30; Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, foreign, rock

memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 0115 9484122

**Another World**, 52 Stafford Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1JB. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01782 279294 fax: 202381 Mail Order: 271750

**Another World**, 23 Victoria Street, Wolverhampton WV1 3NP. Mon-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5.30; Sun 12-4 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, rock memorabilia, alchemy metalware) 01902 717440

**Forbidden Planet**, 31 Cross Cheaping, Coventry CV1 1HF. Mon-Sat 9.30-6 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV) 024 76229672

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 129 Middle Walk, Broadmarsh Centre, Nottingham NG1 7LN. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 0115 9584706

**Forbidden Planet Superstore**, 38 Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 7LA. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; (Thurs-Fri to 6) (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, books, games, mags, kits, toys, videos) 0121 2363026

**Ground Zero**, 9 Toothill Lane, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1NJ. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, prl, CCG, merch, toys) 01623 622017

**Nostalgia & Comics (FPI)**, 14-16 Smallbrook, Queensway, Birmingham. Mon-Thurs 9.15-5.45; Fri-Sat 9.15-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0121 6430143

**Page 45**, 9 Market Street, Nottingham NG1 6HY. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, manga) 0115 9508045

**Phoenix Comix**, 29 Abington Square, Northampton NN1 4AE. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, RPG, CCG, action figures) 01604 602311

**Travelling Man**, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 6 East Street, Derby DE1. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, fantasy books, film/TV) 0115 9509231

**Travelling Man**, c/o Gamestation, 1st Floor, 16 Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures, miniatures) 0115 9509231

## North West

**All-American**, 102 Newport Street, Bolton BL3 6AB. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, gn, STO, merch, Star Wars, WWF, action figures, S/Age, videos, records, CDs) 01204 366553

**Alpha Omega Comics**, 33-35 Library Street, Wigan, Lancs WN1 1NN. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, merch, videos) 07796 854644

**Forbidden Planet**, 92 Bold Street, Liverpool L1 4HY. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7) (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV, sci-fi/horror) 0151 7071491

**Forbidden Planet Megastore (FPI)**, 65 Oldham Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 1JR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (2 floors: imp, back, STO, RPG, CCG, merch, books, toys, film and TV tie-ins, manga) 0161 8394777

**Imagination Station**, 41 Bank Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8HJ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 01273 687 877

**Millennium Comics**, 4 Church Road,

Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5NT. Mon-Tues 10-5; Wed closed; Thurs-Fri 10-5.30; Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01606 49255

**Moonwalk Collectables**, 88 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LF. Mon-Sat 10-6 (back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, merch, Star Wars & Dr Who specialist, TV/film, British titles) 0161 907 3245

**Thunderbooks**, 332 Lytham Road, Blackpool FY4 1DW. Mon, Tues, Thurs-Sat (Sun June-Oct) 10-5.30; Wed 1-3.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, media collectors' items) 01253 348321 fax: 407813

**Thunderbooks II**, 116 Friargate, Preston, PR1 9EE. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, RPG, merch) 01772 204287

**Time Tunnel**, 13 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 2BS. Mon and Wed-Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, merch, film/TV memorabilia, action figures, videos, model kits) 01270 215496

**Worlds Apart (FPI)**, 58-60 Lime Street (city centre), Liverpool. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Fri 10-7) (imp, back, STO, ind, merch, film) 0151 707 0839

## North East

**Books N' Comics**, Unit 15, Forbes Building, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS1 4AW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, fantasy and film magazines, Doctor Who/Star Trek) 01642 249143

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 30 Eastgate, The Headrow, Leeds LS2 7JL. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, LF film books, film/TV mags, posters, toys, kits, trading cards, stills, Star Trek/Doctor Who) 0113 242 6325

**Forbidden Planet**, 59 Grainger Street, Newcastle NE1 5JE. Mon-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, fantasy/sci-fi books, videos) 0191 261 9173

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 41 Dundas Street, Middlesbrough TS1 1HR. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (Thurs until 7) (imp, gn, s-p, STO, ind, u/g, prl, RPG, CCG, merch, video, action figures, film/TV, manga) 01642 248889

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 12 Matilda, off the Moor, Sheffield. Mon-Fri 10-5; Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, model kits, sci-fi/fantasy books, horror magazines, newspaper strip books) 0114 276 9475

**The Last Picture Show**, 38-39 The Lanes, The Oasis, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield S9 1EP. Mon-Thurs 10-8; Fri 10-9; Sat 9-7; Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, film/TV and rock memorabilia) 0114 256 9604 fax: 255 3399

**Millennium Comics**, Stall 141, Warrington Indoor Market. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, RPG, merch, action figures, toys) 01925 575657

**Off-World Comics**, 200 Park View, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3QP. Mon-Tues/Thurs 10-5.30 (closed Wed); Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch) 0191 251 2288

**Sheffield Space Centre**, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Wed closed) (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, merch, Star Trek) 0114 275 8905

**Travelling Man**, Unit 8/9, The Corn



Exchange, Call Lane, Leeds LS1 7BR. Mon-Thurs 10-5.30, Fri-Sat 9-5.30, Sun 11-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 0113 242 7227

**Travelling Man**, 54 Goodramgate, York YO1 2LF. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, merch, action figures) 01904 628787

## West Country

**American Dream Comics**, 72 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BD. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, original art, hobby kits, CDs) 01225 424881

**Area 51**, 143 Gloucester Road, Bristol. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, merch, original art) 0117 924 4655

**Automattic Comics**, Unit 2, 17 Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9BQ. Mon-Tues 12-5, (Wed closed), Thurs-Sat 10-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 01249 701647

**Collector's Choice**, 45 Southgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1TX. Mon-Sat 9-5 (S/Age, British comics/annuals, vintage mags, toys, memorabilia) 01452 410232

**Forbidden Planet**, 30 Penn Street, Bristol BS1 3AS. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 7), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV mags, subculture) 0117 929 8692

**Forbidden Planet**, 43-45 East Street, Southampton SO14 3HN. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30 (Thurs to 6), Sat 9.30-6 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch, film/TV) 023 802 30991 fax: 230996

**Ian's Books & Comics**, 195a Albert Road, Southsea, Portsmouth PO4 0JP (next to Tesco). Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10.30-5.15 (Wed closed) Sat 9-5.15 (imp, back, tpbk, STO, s-p, prl, toys) 023 924 22731

**Into the Void**, 11 Rodbourne Road, Swindon SN2 2AG. Mon-Sat 9-5 (imp, back, STO, CCG, merch) 01793 434363

**Kaboom**, 65 High Street, Tolnes, Devon TQ10 9PU. (new, back, action figures, t-shirts, board games, RPG, import computer games, mail order) 01803 863049

**Kathies Comics**, Unit B629, Broadmead Gallery, The Galleries Shopping Centre, Bristol BS1 3XB. Mon-Wed/Fri-Sat 9-5.30; Thurs 9-6; Sun 11-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0117 922 1170

**Kathies Comics**, 20 Market Avenue, Plymouth, PL1 1PH. Mon-Fri 9.30-5.30; Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 01752 257800

**Kernow Comic & Collectables**, (opposite Kazbah Bar) Quay Street, Truro, Cornwall TR1 2HB. Mon-Sat 10-5 (back, gn, tpbk, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch, film/TV fantasy, manga, toys, action figures, UK comics/annuals) 01872 729805

**Mondo Comics**, 265 Commercial Road, Portsmouth PO4 0AB (round the corner from Sainsbury's). Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, u/g, prl, merch) 023 92 851820

**Paradox Comics**, 30 Hill Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1NR. Mon-Fri 10.30-5; Sat 10-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, ind, merch, videos) 01202 661346

**Purple Place**, 38 Eastlake Walk, Drakes Circus Shopping Centre, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1BX. Mon-Fri

10-5.30, Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, film, TV, sci-fi/horror/genre books, videos, Star Trek/Wars, cassettes/CDs) 01752 254136

**Wonderworld**, 540 Christchurch Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4BE. Mon-Sat 9-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, CCG, merch, film/TV/media, beanie babies) 01202 394918 or 393613

## Wales

**Cardiff Fantasy Centre**, 1st Floor, Jacobs Market, West Canal Wharf, Cardiff. Sat 9.30-4.30 (imp, back, STO; established over 20 years) 029 206 58184 (eves)

**Comix Shoppe**, 13 Shoppers Walk, Swansea SA1 3AY. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, RPG, CCG, merch, anime, Games Workshop) 01792 642097

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 5 Duke Street, Cardiff. Mon-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch, sci-fi/fantasy/horror books, Star Trek/Wars) 029 202 28885

**Negative Zone**, Provision Market Gallery, High Street, Newport, Gwent NP9 1DD. Mon-Sat 9.30-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind; established for 11 years) 01633 222159

## Scotland

**Asylum Books & Games**, 29 Adelphi, Aberdeen AB11 5B2. Mon-Sat 10-6 (Mon and Thurs to 8); Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, new/second hand RPG, CCG, books, original art) 01224 574637

**Black Hole Comic Shop**, Unit 3, 5 Victoria Road, Dundee DD1 1ER. Mon-Thurs 10-5; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, second hand records, CDs, videos) 01382 221037

**City Centre Comics**, 51 Parnie Street, Glasgow G1 5LU. Tues-Sat 10-5 (back) 0141 552 2208

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 12 Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1JX. Mon-Fri 10-6 (Thurs until 7); Sat 9.30-5.30; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, prl, CCG, merch) 01224 622131

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 40-41 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1LL. Mon-Wed 10-5.30, Thurs 10-6.30; Fri-Sat 10-5.30 Sun 12-5. (imp, STO, s-p, ind, merch, foreign) 0131 558 8226

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 168 Buchanan Street, Glasgow G1 2LW. Mon-Sat 10-5.30, Sun 12-5 (imp, back, STO, s-p, ind, u/g, merch) 0141 331 1215

**Justice Comics**, Unit 36, The Arcade, Stirling, Fife FK8 1AX. Mon-Sat 10-5 (imp, back, STO, ind, merch) 01786 447687

**Plan 9**, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NE. Mon-Sat 10-5 (Thurs to 6), Sun 1-4. (imp, back, STO, ind, RPG, CCG, WWW, merch, sci-fi) 01224 624467

**Red Hot Comics**, Block D Unit 7, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH. Sat 11.30-6; Sun 12-5 (imp, back, gn, tpbk, STO, ind, prl, CCG, merch) 0141 630 0049

## Northern Ireland

**Forbidden Planet (FPI)**, 47 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ. Mon-Sat 9.30-5.30 (imp, back, STO, ind, u/g, merch) 028 904 38744

# Retail Index: USA

When telephoning from outside the USA, include the bracketed 00. Out-of-town US calls begin with the 1 prefix only. The following is a fraction of the estimated 3,000+ US comics stores.

## Alabama

**Optic Nerve**, 1930 12th Avenue South, Birmingham AL 35205 (film, newsstand, ind) (001) 205 933 2787

## Alaska

**Bosco's in Spenard**, 2606 Spenard Rd, Anchorage 99503. Mon-Sat 11-8, Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, merch) (001) 907 274 4112

**Bosco's Diamond Centre**, 800 East Diamond Blvd, Anchorage 99577. Mon-Fri 10-9; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, anime, games, Star Wars/Trek) t/f: (001) 907 344 3963

**Bosco's in Eagle River**, 11432 Business Blvd, Eagle River. Mon-Sat 12-8, Sun 12-5 (new, back, CCG, RPG, cards, merch) tel/fax: (001) 907 696 5166

## Arizona

**Lost Dutchman**, 747 West Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013. Mon-Sun 10-7. (new, back, S/Age) tel/fax: (001) 619 278 0371

## California

**Comicaze**, 5525 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92117-2342. Mon-Fri 11-7; Sat 11-6; Sun 12-6 (new, back, CCG, merch) (001) 858 278 0371

**Comix Experience**, 305 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Mon-Sat 11-7; Sun 12-5 (new, back) (001) 415 863 9258 (fax: 9299)

**Flying Colors Comics**, 2980 Treat Blvd, Concord, CA 94518. Mon-Sat 11-7 (Fri until 8); Sun 12-6 (new, back, ind, cards, merch) (001) 510 825 5410

**Lee's Comics, Inc.**, 1020-F N Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94043. Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, s-p, adult, merch) (001) 650 965 1800

**Lee's Comics, Inc.**, 2222 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403. Mon-Sun 10-9. (new, back: 1930s to date, anime, manga, adult, s-p, merch) (001) 650 571 1489

**Meltdown Comics & Collectibles**, 7522 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046 (toys, comics, books) (001) 323 851 7223

**Stand-Up Comics**, 10020 San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530. Mon-Fri 11-7; Sat-Sun 11-6 (new, back, cards, anime, CCG, merch) t/f: (001) 510 525 3344

**Third Planet**, 3822 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90505. Sun-Thurs 11-8; Fri-Sat 11-9 (new, ind, back, CCG, RPG, GW, sci-fi/fantasy, anime, merch) (001) 310 791 6227

## Hawaii

**Gecko Books & Comics**, 3613 Waialae Ave, Honolulu, 96816. Mon-Sun 9-9 (new,

back, cards, toys, merch) (001) 808 732 1292 (fax: 2188)

## Illinois

**Comic Kingdom**, 5941 W Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60634. (new, back) (001) 773 545 2231

## Louisiana

**Comic Cosmos**, 343 W Esplanade Ave, Kenner, LA 70065. Mon-Thurs 11.30-7, Fri-Sat 11-7.30, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, toys, anime) (001) 504 286 0039

**Crescent City Comics & Cards**, 6111 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70122. Mon-Sat 11-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, anime) (001) 504 286 0039

**More Fun Comics**, 8200 Oak St, New Orleans, LA 70118. Tues-Sat 11-7, Sun-Mon 12-6 (new, back, cards, CCG, merch, toys, CDs) (001) 504 865 1800

## Maine

**Casablanca Comics**, 151 Middle Street, Portland, ME 04101. Mon-Sat 10-9, Sun 12-7 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art) (001) 207 780 1676

**Casablanca Comics**, 778 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME 04062. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, CCG, RPG, merch, art, GW) (001) 207 892 0056

## Massachusetts

**Comicipia**, 464 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, Massachusetts 02215. Mon-Sun 11-7 (Wed 10-8) (new, merch, CCG, White Wolf, manga, tpbk) (001) 617 266 4266

## Minnesota

**Uncle Sven's Comic Shoppe**, 1838 St Clair Avenue, Saint Paul MN 55105. Mon-Fri 3-6, Sat 11-4 (New, back, tpbk, gn, videos, action figures, CCG, RPG; est 19 years) (001) 651 699 3409

## New York State

**Earthworld Comics**, 327 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206. Mon-Wed 11-6; Thur-Fri 11-7, Sat 11-6, Sun 12-5 (new, back, ind, manga/anime, cards, merch) (001) 518 465 5495

**Forbidden Planet (FPI) associate**, 840 Broadway (at 13th St, NY 10003. Mon-Sat 10-10; Sun 12-10. (new, ind, back, RPG, merch, fantasy) (001) 212 473 1576

**Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd.**, 4 West 33rd Street (opposite Empire State Building), NY 10001. Mon-Sat 9am-11pm; Sun 10-9. (Everything to do with comics) (001) 212 268 7088

**Jim Hanley's Universe Ltd.**, 325 New Dorp Lane, Staten Island, NY 10306. Mon-Sun; 12-9. (Everything to do with

comics) (001) 718 351 6299  
**Midtown Comics**, 200 West 40th Street, NY 10018 (001) 212 302-8192

## Ohio

**The Laughing Ogre**, 4258 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214. Mon-Sat 10-9; Sun 12-5 (new, back, cards, merch) (001) 614 267 6473

## Oklahoma

**Time Warp**, 588 SE Washington Street, Bartlesville, OK 74006 (new, back, cards, games, toys, CDs, sci-fi/fantasy) (001) 918 335 3373

## Pennsylvania

**Comic Castle**, 17 West Fourth St, Williamsport, PA 17703 Mon-Sun 10-9 (new, back, S/G Age) (001) 717 322 8763

**Golden Eagle**, Berkshire Square, 1159 Berkshire Blvd, Wyoming, PA 19610 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (001) 610 376 8255

**Golden Eagle**, Fairgrounds Square Mall, Reading, PA 19605 (new, back, games, CCG, cards, Star Wars/Trek) (001) 610 921 3160

## Tennessee

**Collector's World**, 1511 E Main St, Murfreesboro TN 37130. Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (001) 615 895 1120

**Collector's World**, Hickory Plaza South Central, 5751 Nolensville Road, Nashville, TN 37211. Open all week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (001) 615 895 1120

**Collector's World**, 10820 Kingston Park #10, Knoxville, TN 37922 Open 7 days a week (new, back, CCG, merch, cards, CDs) (001) 423 675 6830

**Collector's World**, 4006 Granny White Park, Nashville TN 37204 (new, back, CCG, merch) (001) 615 385 8136

## Texas

**Cliff's Comics**, 2205 West Berry St, Fort Worth, TX 76110. (new, back, t/cards, merch) (001) 817 927 7172

**Collectible Heroes**, 502 West Calton Road #307, Laredo, TX 78041. Mon-Wed 2-7.30; Thurs-Sat 11.30-7.30 (new, back, cards, merch) (001) 956 791 8428

**Dragon's Lair Comics & Fantasy**, 616 West 34th Street, Austin, TX 78705 (new, back, games, anime, miniatures, prl) (001) 512 454 2399

## Virginia

**Thore Comics**, 3514 Oaklawn Blvd, Hopewell, VA 23860. Mon-Sat 11-7, (new, back, Silver Age, sci-fi, M/TG, cards, vinyl) (001) 804 458 9561

**Trilogy Shop**, 700 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA 23518. Mon-Fri 11-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 12-6 (new, back, merch) (001) 757 587 2540 (fax: 5637)

## Wisconsin

**Lost World of Wonders**, 6713 West Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53219 (001) 414 328 4651 (fax: 328-1355)

## Direct Market Retailers:

Comics International's Retail Index is THE international retail reference source for collectors, creators, publishers and journalists. Through it you can reach over 40,000 dedicated readers each issue for only £6 (US \$10) a month! Bookable in 6-issue blocks, retailers wishing to be included should send US \$60 or £36 (UK: please add £6.30 to cover VAT @ 17.5%) plus shop information as detailed on previous page to:

**Retail Index, Comics International, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ, England**

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(144) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: [Listings@comicsinternational.com](mailto:Listings@comicsinternational.com)

The letters (FPI) after various entries indicates that the company is part of **Forbidden Planet International Ltd**



## Retailers: International

### Australia

**Arcadia Unbound**, 267 Forest Road, Hurstville, NSW 2220. Mon-Fri 10.30-7, Sat 10-4, Sun 12-3 (imp, back, manga, merch, CCG) (0061) 2 9585 1489

**Books & Bounties/Comics Haven**, 157a Charters Towers Road, Townsville, Queensland 4812. Mon-Sat 9-6 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG, CCG) (0061) 7 4779 2408

**Fan Attic**, 1st Floor, 91 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4002. Mon-Sun 9.30-5.30 (toys, Star Wars, sci-fi collectibles) (0061) 7 3221 1420

**Kinda Lotsa Comics and Stuff**, Shop 4, 503-511 King Street, Newtown, Sydney, NSW. Mon-Sat 10.30-7.30 (back, toys, merch) (0061) 2 9565 1054

**Known Space Books**, 1st Floor, 108 Gawler Place, Adelaide, SA 5000. Wed-Sat 12-6 (US/UK back) (0061) 8 8223 4304

**Phantom Zone**, 23 Anderson Street, Chatswood, NSW 2067. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9411 3709

**Phantom Zone**, 198 Mann Street, Gosford, NSW 2250. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 43 25 4599

**Phantom Zone**, 207 George Street, Liverpool, NSW. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9601 2622

**Phantom Zone**, 285 Hunter Street, Newcastle, NSW. 2300. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4. (imp, back, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4929 5717

**Phantom Zone**, 101a Argyle Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, books, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 9891 1848

**Phantom Zone**, 268 Crown Street, Wollongong, NSW. 2500. Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat-Sun 9-4 (imp, back, gn, merch, RPG) (0061) 2 4228 7393

### Austria

**Comic Treff**, Getreidemarkt 2-4, 1010 Vienna. Mon-Fri 10-7, Sat 10-1 (imp, back, gn, CCG) (0043) 11 586 76 27

### Belgium

**Forbidden Zone**, 25 Rue de Tarnines, 1060 Brussels. (3 floors; imp, back, merch, US/French, STO, toys) (0032 2) 534 63 67 (fax 538 24 52)

### Canada

**Connection MD**, 1539 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, Quebec H2V 1L4. Mon-Sat 11-6 (new, merch, back, CCG) (001) 514 948 2627

**Dragon Lady Comics & Paper Nostalgia**, 609 College Street, Toronto, Ontario M6G 1B5. (001) 416 536 7460

**Little Shop of Heroes**, 160 Wallace Avenue, South Listowel, Ontario N4W 1X9 (001) 519 291 2281

**Silver Snail Comic Shop**, 367 Queen Street West, Toronto M5V 2A4. Mon-Wed 10-6; Thurs-Fri 11-8; Sat 10-6; Sun 12-5 (001) 416 593 0889

### France

**Album**, 67 boulevard St Germain, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 53 10 00 60

**Album**, 6 rue Dante, 75005 Paris. Mon-Sat 10-8; Sun 12-7 (imp, back, gn) (0033) 43 54 67 09

**Alpha Omega**, 25 rue de la Clef, 59800 Lille. Mon 2-7.30, Tue-Sat

10.30-12.30/2.30-7.30 (imp, back, French, merch, trading/gaming cards, toys, RPG, Wars/Trek, B5, L5R) (0033) 320 319 375

**Astro City**, 22 rue Masurel, 59800 Lille. Mon 3-7.30; Tue-Sat 10-12.30, 2-7.30 (imp, manga, cards, merch, kits) (0033) 320 55 1010

**Impact Comics**, 64 rue Condorcet, 75009 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, merch, CCG) (0033) 42 80 30 10

**L'Antre des Dragons**, 56 rue de Loup, 33000 Bordeaux. Mon-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0033) 55 65 17378

**Les Nageurs de Sable**, 14 rue Courtelaine, 37058 Tours. Mon-Sat 11-1/2-7 (imp, back, cards, merch) (0033) 2 47 39 52 40

**Pulps**, 14 bld Morland, 75004 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, RPG) (0033) 1 42 72 55 25

**Pulps**, 14 bld Morland, 75004 Paris. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, RPG) (0033) 1 42 72 55 25

### Germany

**Black Dog Comics**, Rodenberg Strasse 9, 10439 Berlin. Mon-Fri 11-6.30, Sat 11-2 (imp, back, gn, t/cards) (0049) 30 4473 6486

**Grober Unfug**, Zossenerstrasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0049) 30 6940 1490

**Grober Unfug**, Zossenerstrasse 32-33, 10961 Berlin. Mon-Sat 11-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, merch) (0049) 30 6940 1490

### Greece

**Metropolis Comics**, 94 Metropoleos St, 54622 Thessaloniki. Mon-Sat 10.30-3.30/7.30-11.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0030) 3 193 7775

**Solaris**, 6 Botasi Str, 10682, Athens. Mon-Sat 9-3.30/5-8.30 (imp, back, gn, merch) (0030) 1 384 1065

**Solaris**, 6 Botasi Str, 10682, Athens. Mon-Sat 9-3.30/5-8.30 (imp, back, gn, merch) (0030) 1 384 1065

### Holland

**Henk Lie's Comics & Manga Store**, Zeeduk 104, 1012BB Amsterdam. Mon-Sat 11-6; Sun 11-9 (imp, cards, merch, CCG) (0031) 20 421 3688

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**Troll Keprengyta'r**, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0036) 1 322 6026

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**Troll Keprengyta'r**, Terez Krt 13, Budapest 1067. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1 (imp, manga, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0036) 1 322 6026

**Avalon**, via Settembrini 20, Milan. Mon 3.30-7.30, Tue-Sat 11-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 022 9400410

**Avalon**, via Foscolo 3, Padova. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7. (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 049 658290

**Avalon**, via Bissolati 68, Rome. Mon 3-7, Tue-Sat 10-1/2-7 (imp, back, gn, CCG, cards, merch) (0039) 06 70305702

**Avalon**, via Magenta 0, Torino. Mon 3.30-7, Tue-Sat 10.30-1, 2-7.30 (imp, back, gn, RPG, CCG, merch) (0039) 011 5617252

**Forbidden Planet**, via Pinerolo 11/15, 00182 Rome (imp, back, gn) (0039) 06 70305702

**Il Marchio Giallo**, via Degli Scipioni 116, Rome. Tue-Sat 10.30-1/2-7.30 (imp, back, merch, kits) (0039) 06 361 40 60

**La Borsa del Fumetto**, via Lecco 16, 20124 Milano. (imp, back, European and RPG, CCG) (0039) 11 5617252

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## International Festivals

A listing of the world's major comics festivals and conventions. For further information, call the organisers on the phone, fax or e-mail numbers provided. To view updates, contact them on their websites. Organisers' estimates of their previous year's attendance are given in brackets.

### Feb 28-March 2: United States

MEGACon 2003, Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando, Florida. Organisers MegaCon, PO Box 1056, Safety Harbor, Florida 34695-1056, USA. Tel: 001 727 712 8700. E-mail: info@megaconvention.com Website: www.megaconvention.com

### April 5-6: England

MEMORABILIA '03, NEC, Birmingham. (2002: 17,812). Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk

### May 8-11: Spain

THE 21ST BARCELONA INTERNATIONAL COMIC FESTIVAL. (2002 est: 85,000). Organisers: Ficomic, Palau, 4 Baixos, 08002 Barcelona, Spain. Tel: 0034 93 301 23 69 fax: 0034 93 301 52 26. Website: www.ficomic.com Date: TBA

### May 17-18: England

LONDON EXPO, ExCel Convention Centre, Royal Victoria Dock, London. Organisers: Sci-Fi Shows (Dept W), Nelson House, 341 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, London E10 7LA. Tel: 020 8523 1074. E-mail: info@scifishows.com Website: www.londonexpo.com

### May 24-25: England

Comics 2003, The Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol. (2002 est: 4,500). Organiser: Kev F. Sutherland. Website: www.sitsvac.org

### May: Finland

ARCTIC COMICS FESTIVAL, KEMI. (Previous: 20,000). Organisers: The Arctic Comics Centre, Rautatiekatu 13 B, FIN-90100 Oulu, Finland. Tel/fax: 00358 16 221 000. E-mail: heikki.porkola@kemi.fi Website: www.kemi.fi/sarjis/english Date: TBA

### July 17-20: United States

COMIC-CON INTERNATIONAL '03, San Diego, California. (2002 est: 53,000). Organisers: Comic-Con International, PO Box 128458, San Diego, CA 92112-8458. Tel: 001 619 491 2475 fax: 001 619 414 1022. Website: www.comic-con.org

### August 8-10: United States

WIZARD WORLD CHICAGO CON 2003. (2001 est: 35,000) Organisers: Wizard World Chicago, 151 Wells Avenue, Congers, NY 10920-2064. Tel: 001 608 226 0200. Website: www.wizarduniverse.com

### August 22-24: Canada

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXPO '03, Metro Toronto Convention Center, Toronto, Ontario. (2002 attendance: 15,000) E-mail: info@hobbystars.com

### August 29-Sept 1: United States

DRAGON\*CON 2003, Atlanta, Georgia. (2002: 20,000). Organisers: Dragon\*Con, PO Box 16459, Atlanta, GA 30321-9998. Tel: 001 770 909 0115 fax: 001 770 909 0112. E-mail: dragoncon@dragoncon.org Website: www.dragoncon.org

### August: England

MEMORABILIA '03, NEC, Birmingham. (2002: 18,853). Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

### August: Scotland

MEMORABILIA '03, The SECC, Glasgow. (2002 attendance: 7,342) Organisers: Made in Heaven, 1 Star St, Moffat, Dumfriesshire DG10 9DR. Tel: 01683 220787 fax: 01683 220798. Website: www.memorabilia.co.uk Date: TBA

### September 12-14: Norway

RAPTUS INTERNATIONAL COMICS FESTIVAL. (2002: 5,000). Organisers: Raptus Bergen Comics Festival, PO Box 768, Central 5807 Bergen, Norway. Tel/fax: 0047 55 32 88 55. E-mail: awa@hib.no Website: www.raptus.no



# Comics Publishers

## North America

Unlike Europe, North American publishers invariably favour indie status to that of being labelled small press. This results in there being hundreds of comics publishers.

While circulations vary immensely, the following are the continent's major comicbook producers with titles printing between 5,000 and 150,000 copies. Contact phone numbers are given where readily available.

**AARDVARK-VANAHEIM**, PO Box 1674 Station C, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2 (Cerebus)

**ABSTRACT STUDIOS**, PO Box 271487, Houston, TX 77277-1487 (Strangers in Paradise)

**AC COMICS**, PO Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216 (adventure titles, Golden Age superhero and western reprints)

**ACCLAIM COMICS**, 1 Acclaim Plaza, Glen Cove, NY 11542 (game tie-in adventure, Valiant superhero imprint, dormant)  
(00)1 516 656 5000

**AIT/PLANET LAR**, 2034 47th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116 (graphic novels)  
(00)1 415 504 7516

**ALTERNATIVE COMICS**, 503 North West 37th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609-2204 (alternative and graphic novels)  
(00)1 352 373 6336

**AMERICAN MEDIA CONSUMER ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**, 600 East Coast Avenue, Lantana, Florida 33464 (Cracked)  
(00)1 561 586 1111

**ANTARCTIC PRESS**, 7272 Wurzbach, Suite 204, San Antonio, Texas TX 78240 (adventure and US manga)

**ARCHIE COMIC PUBLICATIONS**, 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543 (humour)  
(00)1 914 381 5155

**AVATAR PRESS**, 9 Triumph Drive, Urbana, Illinois, IL 61802 (horror fantasy titles) (00)1 217 384 2211

**AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT**, 9744 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 402, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, CA 90212 (adventure titles; dormant)

**BONGO ENTERTAINMENT**, 1440 South Sepulveda Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (The Simpsons and related humour titles) (00)1 310 966 6168

**CALIBER COMICS**, PO Box 6191,

Plymouth, MI 48170 (black and white adventure titles)  
(00)1 734 462 0457

**CARTOON BOOKS**, PO Box 16973, Columbus, OH 43216 (Bone and related)

**CROSSGENERATION COMICS**, 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, FL 34677 (fantasy adventure) (00)1 813 891 1702

**CRUSADE FINE ARTS LTD.**, PO Box 845, Bayport, NY 11705 (fantasy and adventure)  
(00)1 631 472 2866

**DARK HORSE COMICS**, 10956 South East Main Street, Milwaukee, OR 97222 (adventure titles, licensed, US and Japanese manga)  
(00)1 503 652 8815

**DC COMICS**, 1700 Broadway, NY 10019 (adventure and humour, MAD, Vertigo and Paradox Press imprints) (00)1 212 636 5400

**DISNEY COMICS**, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, CA 91521 (humour titles)  
(00)1 818 507 5739

**DRAWN & QUARTERLY**, PO Box 48056, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2V 4S8 (black and white biog)

**DREAMWAVE PRODUCTIONS**, 2750 14th Avenue, Suite 302, Markham, Ontario L3R 0B6, Canada

**DYNAMIC FORCES**, 155 Ninth Avenue, Suite E, Runnemede, NJ 08078 (variant editions and merchandise) (00)1 856 312 1040

**FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS**, 7563 Lake City Way North East, Seattle, Washington 98115 (adventure, biographical and Eros adult)  
(00)1 206 524 1967

**HARRIS COMICS**, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, NY 10010 (Vampirella, fantasy and horror)  
(00)1 212 807 7100

**HARVEY COMICS ENTERTAINMENTS**, 100 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 91401 (humour)  
(00)1 310 451 3377

**HEAVY METAL**, 100 Merrick Road, Suite 400 East, The Rockville Center, NY 11570 (adult fantasy magazines and spin-off editions)  
(00)1 516 594 2130

**HUMANOID PUBLISHING**, PO Box 931658, Hollywood, California CA 90093 (US-European editions)  
(00)1 714 2880200

**IMAGE COMICS**, 1440 North Harbor Boulevard, Suite 305, Fullerton, CA 92835 (adventure)  
(00)1 714 2880200

**MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP**, 10th Floor, East 40th Street, New York, NY 10016 (adventure, humour and licensed)  
(00)1 212 696 0808

**NBM PUBLICATIONS**, 185 Madison Avenue, Suite 1504, NY 10016 (adult fantasy, graphic novels and magazines)

**ONI PRESS**, 6336 South East Milwaukie Avenue, PMB 30, Portland, OR 97202 (adventure)  
(00)1 503 233 1377

**RADIO COMIX**, 11765 West Avenue, PMB 117, San Antonio, TX 78216 (anthropomorphic manga)  
(00)1 210 348 7195

**SIRIUS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.**, PO Box 128, Stanhope, NJ 07874 (adult)

**SLAVE LABOR GRAPHICS PUBLISHING**, 848 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126 (black and white fantasy) (00)1 408 279 0451

**TOP COW**, 10390 Santa Monica Boulevard #110, Los Angeles, CA 90025 (adventure and licensed)

**TOP SHELF PRODUCTIONS**, PO Box 1282, Marietta, GA 30061-1282 (alternative and biographical)  
(00)1 770 425 0551

**TWOMORROWS PUBLISHING**, 1812 Park Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina, NC 27605 (comics feature magazines) (00)1 919 833 8092

**VEROTIK PRESS**, PO Box 64859, Los Angeles, CA 07043 (adult fantasies)

**VIZ COMICS**, PO Box 77010, San Francisco, CA 94107 (English translated manga)

**WaRP GRAPHICS**, 43 Haight Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 (Elfquest and spin-offs)  
(00)1 914 473 9277

**WILDSTORM**, 7910 Ivanhoe Street, #438 La Jolla, CA 92037 (includes ABC, Cliffhanger and Homage DC subsidiary imprints)

## United Kingdom

The following are major UK newsstand comics and graphic novel publishers. If calling from outside of the UK, you should drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe and Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

**DC THOMSON**, Albert Square, Dundee DD1 9QJ (humour and adventure comics, pocket books and annuals)

**EGMONT MAGAZINES LTD**, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SU (humour, licensed and pre-school titles)  
020 7344 6400

**HAMLYN BOOKS**, 2-4 Heron Quays, London E14 4JB (2000 AD graphic novels) 020 7531 8584

**I FEEL GOOD LTD**, 9 Dollington Street, London EC1V 0BQ (Viz) 020 7687 7000

**JOHN BROWN PUBLISHING**, The Boathouse, Crabtree Lane, Fulham, London SW6 (albums) 020 7381 6007

**KNOCKABOUT COMICS**, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (humour and underground comix, graphic novels) 020 8969 2945

**PANINI COMICS (UK)**, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent KT2 5UJ (humour and adventure titles, Marvel licensed) 01892 500 100

**REBELLION DEVELOPMENTS LTD**, The Studio, Brewer Street, Oxford OX11QN (Judge Dredd Magazine and 2000 AD) 01865 792201

**THE REDAN COMPANY**, Minsterley Hall, Shrewsbury SY5 0AA (pre-school humour and licensed titles) 01743 792660

**SAVOY BOOKS**, 446 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester M20 3BW (adult comic magazines, books and graphic novels) 0161 833 2664

**TITAN ENTERTAINMENT GROUP LTD**, Titan House, 144 Southwark Street, London SE1 0UP (licensed graphic novels, books, magazines and comics) 020 7620 0200

## France

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0033 becomes 011 33

**ALBIN MICHEL**, 22 rue Huyghens, 75014 Paris (albums)  
(0033) 1 42 79 10 00

**CASTERMAN**, 66 rue Bonaparte, 75006, Paris (albums and manga)  
(0033) 1 40 51 28 00

**DARGAUD**, 6 rue Gager Gabillot, 75015 Paris (albums and manga)  
(0033) 1 40 45 35 39

**DELCOURT**, 5 passage du Mont-Cenis, 75018 Paris (albums and comics)  
(0033) 1 53 41 86 10

**FLUIDE GLACIAL**, 33 avenue du Main, BP 187, 75755 Paris (comics and albums)  
(0033) 1 43 20 23 96

**GLENAT**, 31 rue Ernest Renan, 92130 Issy les Moulineaux (albums and manga) (0033) 1 41 46 11 11

**J'AI LU**, 84 rue de Grenelle, 75007 Paris (licensed Japanese manga) (0033) 1 44 39 34 70

**LES HUMANOIDES ASSOCIES**, 24 avenue Philippe Auguste, 75011 Paris (albums) (0033) 1 44 93 88 33

**MARVEL**, BP 62, 06702 St Laurent Duvar (0033) 1 92 12 57 57

**SEMIC FRANCE**, 45 rue Broca, 75005 Paris (licensed comics and albums) (0033) 1 43 36 32 00

## Italy

The following are the country's major comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0039 becomes 011 39

**SERGIO BONELLI EDITORE**, via Buonarroti 38, 20145 Milano (black and white comics)  
(0039) 02 96480403

**MARVEL ITALIA**, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Marvel licensed titles)

**CULT COMICS**, viale Emilio Po' 380, 41100 Modena (Image and Dark Horse licensed)

**MAGIC PRESS**, Zona industriale via Ragusa 18, 00040 Pavona, Roma (Vertigo and WildStorm licensed) fax: (0039) 06 93020361

**STAR COMICS**, strada Selvette 1bis/1 Bosco (PG) (comics and black and white manga)

**ASTORINA S.R.I.**, via Boccaccio 32, 20123 Milano (Diabolik original and reprint black and white)

**KING COMICS**, via Pinerolo 3, 00182 Roma (comics)

## Spain

The following are the country's comics and album publishers. If phoning from the USA, the country code of 0034 becomes 011 34

**NORMA EDITORIAL**, Fluvia 89, 08019 Barcelona (licensed DC and Dark Horse comics and albums)  
0034 93 303 68 20

**EDITORIAL PLANETA-DE AGOSTINI, SA**, Aribau 185, 08021 Barcelona (licensed Dark Horse comics and albums)

**TOUTAIN EDITOR, SA**, Diagonal 325, E-08009 Barcelona (licensed Marvel, Dark Horse, Chaos!, Image and manga comics and albums) 0034 93 344 06 00

**EDICIONES LA CÚPULA**, Plaza de las Beatas 3, E-08003 Barcelona (adult comics and albums)  
0034 32 682 8 05



# Mail Order Specialists

## Key to abbreviations used:

w/s = wholesale available  
dis = bulk discount terms  
cat = phone/write for catalogue  
s-cat = sae for catalogue  
wants = wants lists accepted

s-wants = sae with wants lists  
CoBRA = Comic Book Retailers' mail order protection scheme  
cc = major credit cards accepted  
sae = send stamped, addressed envelope with your enquiry

When telephoning from outside the UK, drop the first 0 and replace with: 01144 (USA); 0044 (mainland Europe & Eire); 001144 (Australasia).

## Golden Age

Generally acknowledged as being published between 1938 and 1945, the first age of superhero comics, but herein designated to cover all pre-Silver Age American comics.

**Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

**Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd**, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

**Incognito**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

**Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

**Quality Comics**, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

**Silver Acre Comics**, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

## Silver Age

Accepted as starting in 1955 with DC's superhero rebirth through *Detective Comics* #225 (introducing the *Martian Manhunter*) and *Showcase* #4 (introducing the *Barry Allen Flash*). Herein covering titles up to late 1960s.

**Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

**Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd**, 40-42 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

**East Coast Comics UK**, 28 Acton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 7LG (high grade, s-want, cc, sae) 01502 578385 (day) 560727 (eve)

**Incognito**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

**Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London

WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

**Quality Comics**, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

**Quicksilver Comics**, PO Box 73, Ossett WF5 0YQ (s-cat, dis, wants, cc, CoBRA) 01924 270500 (fax: 270919)

**Silver Acre Comics**, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

## Post-Silver Age

Comics from 1970 to date: From *Bronze Age-Marvel Age-Lead Age* up to *Platinum Age-Gimmick Age-Image Age*. Historians will doubtless eventually decide on a name.

**Mighty World of Comicana**, 237 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (dis, cat, CoBRA, cc) 020 7836 5630

**Planet Warehouse (FPI)** formerly *Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

**Quality Comics**, 345 Ditchling Rd, Brighton BN1 6JJ (CoBRA, cc)

**Tarpaulin Books and Comics**, 5 Oak Close, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3EZ (wants, s-cat) 01842 820139

## Hot Comics

Current or key titles, first issues or first appearances of major characters. Investment titles for speculators willing to gamble.

**A Place in Space**, 101 Church Street, Croydon, Surrey CR0 1RN (wants, cc, dis) 020 8686 2400

**Comix-shop. co.uk**, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

## Advance Imports

US comics are not generally available in UK newspapers, except for some sea-freight shipped low-cover price DCs and

*Marvels*, and can only be found through specialists in the rest of the world. The following companies offer air-shipped copies from all of the major US publishers.

**Ace Comics**, 63/64 High Street, Colchester, Essex (wants, cat, CoBRA, cc) 01206 561912

**Avalon Comics**, 143 Lavender Hill, London SW11 5QJ (cc, CoBRA) 020 7924 3609

**Comix-shop.co.uk**, 7a High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 1JN (wants, cat, cc) 01628 777998

**86th Floor Comics & Cards**, 6 Shipley Common Lane, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE78 8TR (dis, cat, cc) 0115 9443009

**Forbidden Planet**, 71 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DG (s-cat, cc) 020 7497 2150

**Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH 020 7636 1011

**Mega-City Comics**, 18 Inverness St, Camden Town, London NW1 7HJ (s-cat, cc, CoBRA) 020 7485 9320

**Planet Warehouse (FPI)** formerly *Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

**Red Hot Comics**, The Warehouse Block D Unit 8, Glenwood Business Park, Glenwood Place, Glasgow G45 9UH (CoBRA, w/s, dis, wants, cc) tel/fax: 0141 630 0049

## Limited Editions

Many high-profile miniseries and one-shots are also available in limited, numbered and often autographed editions (s&n). New titles, to acquire copyright, can also appear in small print-run "ashcan" editions (ash).

**Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (CoBRA, cc, ash, s&n, cat) 020 8446 3464

## Trading Cards

Several mail order dealers carry a range of non-sports cards and related peripherals (files, folders, sleeves).

**Beyond Comics**, 76 Harlescott Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3BZ (s-cat, s-wants, sae, CoBRA) tel/fax: 020 7564 4213

**John McDonald: Non-Sport Trading Cards**, 20 Alder Grove, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire ML5 3PT (cat, wants) tel/fax: 01236 433358

## Old British Titles

The popularity of old British comics continues to increase as more dealers expand into this area. The following specialise in such titles.

**The Book Palace**, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

**Comic Biz**, PO Box 7041, London N12 9NF (wants, CoBRA, cc, cat) 020 8446 3464

**Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd**, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

**Weird Fantasy**, 19 Decoy Road, Ormesby, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 3LG (s-cat, s-wants, annuals specialist) 020 8325 9507

## Merchandise

Comics, film and TV-related t-shirts, posters, video games, badges, toys, action figures, etc.

**Off World: The Sci-Fi Store**, 142 Market Halls, Arndale Centre, Luton, Beds LU1 2TP: (specialists in Star Trek, Star Wars and sci-fi collectables) 01582 736256

**Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

## Original Art

With artists having their originals returned by publishers, an increasing number of pages are now being made available for collectors.

**The Book Palace**, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

**Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd**, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

**Silver Acre Comics**, PO Box 114, Chester CH4 8WQ (s-wants, cc) 01244 680 048 (fax: 680686)

## Peripherals

Acid-free protection for comics. Backing boards, protective bags, storage boxes, etc.

**The Book Palace**, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP 020 8768 0022

**Incognito**, 1-2 The Friars, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2AS (s-wants, CoBRA, cc) tel/fax: 01227 785898

**Just Comics**, 65 Station Road, Warboys, Huntingdon, Cambs PE28 2TH (w/s only, CollectorLine™ distributor) 01487 824895 01487 824896

**Planet Warehouse (FPI)** formerly *Comics Warehouse*, PO Box 600, 8 Galliford Rd, Maldon, Essex CM9 7XD (w/s, cat, cc, CoBRA) 01621 877244

## General Fantasy

As well as comics old and new, some suppliers also provide

catalogues of multi-media fantasy, covering TV, film, trading cards and toys.

**Forbidden Planet Mail Order**, 144 Southwark St, London SE1 0UP (cat) 020 7803 1900 (fax: 7803 1901)

**Sci-Fi Merchandise Direct (FPI) and Gear for Games (FPI)** Maldon, Essex CM9 4XD (cat) 01621 877222

## Manga Titles

English language translations of Japanese comics and US titles drawn in the Japanese style.

**United Publications**, 85 Croydon Road, Keston, Kent BR2 8HU (ind, back, cat, wants, cc) 020 8325 9507

## Alternative & Biographical

The following carry an extensive range of biographical and slice-of-life comicbooks and graphic novels (*Fantagraphics*, *Maus*, *Crumb*, *Pekar*...)

**Gosh! Strips by Mail**, 39 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PH (wants) 020 7636 1011

**Knockabout Comics**, 10 Acklam Rd, London W10 5QZ (w/s, s-cat, cc) 020 8969 2945 (fax: 8968 7614)

**Page 45**, 9 Market St, Nottingham NG1 6HY 0115 9508045

## Comics Auctions

Accepting lots from the general public, comics auctions provide an alternative way for collectors to sell their valuable comics. The following accept items for sale, as well as providing regular catalogues for mail order bids.

**Comic Book Postal Auctions Ltd**, 40-42 Osnaburgh St, London NW1 3ND (cat) 020 7424 0007

## Distributors

Anybody considering opening a comics shop or becoming a mail order dealer can obtain further information about the supply of titles from the following who bulk air import US and European comics and related items on a weekly basis.

**The Book Palace**, Jubilee House, Bedwardine Road, Crystal Palace, London SE19 3AP (graphic novels, art books, comics, remainders, film and TV, popular culture) 020 8768 0022

**Diamond Comic Distributors**, 2nd Floor, Warton House, 150 High Street, London E15 2NP (US and European comics, cards and related items) 020 8536 5730 (fax: 8536 5736)

**Red Route Distribution**, Unit 24, 10 Acklam Road, London W10 5QZ (US & European comics/graphic novels, back-list specialists) 020 8960 5855

## Mail Order Dealers:

Ci's Mail Order Index is the industry's most cost-effective and highly-targeted way to reach a huge dedicated audience in excess of 40,000 readers every month. It costs only £4 (\$6 US) per entry per issue to appear and is bookable in advance as a 6-issue series. Send pre-payment of £24/\$36 (plus £4.20 VAT for UK advertisers) per category with your details to:

**Comics International, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ**

Cheques and international money orders should be made payable to Comics International. Alternatively, payment can be made by credit card, fax: 0(11 44) 1273 566 333 or e-mail: [Listings@comicsinternational.com](mailto:Listings@comicsinternational.com)



# Classified

## Advertising terms and conditions

Whether for publication or not, all advertisements must be accompanied by full name, home address and daytime phone number of advertiser.

• All private classified Wants or Announcements ads (comics or card related items only) are free of charge. Maximum 50 words, they will be printed at the publisher's discretion when space permits. (Only one advertisement can be submitted per letter/per issue so everybody gets a chance to fit in!)

• FOR SALE ads (and dealer wants/announcements) are charged: (i) General announcements: Stating no issue numbers, prices or titles. Per 50 words (or part thereof) ..... £5.00 (\$7.50 US) (ii) List ads: (including specific titles, issues and/or prices. Minimum charge, per 100 words (or part thereof) ..... £10.00 (\$15.00 US)

Payment (to Comics International) must accompany advertising copy.

**CI Classified, 345 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JJ**

## For Sale

For sale: Hundreds of DC and Marvel comics, all at very reasonable prices. For more details, send an sae to Carl Reader, 22 Pottton Road, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 0DX. Or e-mail me at creader59@aol.com

For sale: Approximately 900 English comics from 1972 to 1982. Marvel 311, Spider-Man 300, Avengers 142, Titans 59, Superheroes 50, Planet of the Apes 14, Captain Britain 10, Spider-Man TV 9, Savage Sword of Conan 7, Dracula Lives 5, Marvel Treasury Edition - The Mighty Avengers collection issue 7, Marvel Treasury Edition - Doctor Strange collection issue 6. Enquiries (weekends only please) on 020 8778 8746.

Half-price sale: Many thousands of Marvel, DC and indies, all at half price. For your full list send an sae to M. Cruden, 18 Backbower Lane, Hyde, Cheshire SK14 5NS, or phone 0161 366 8226. E-mail mcruden@btinternet.com, or log on to <http://members.lycos.co.uk/mcruden> to see full lists of comics for sale.

For sale: 1000 issues of **2000 AD** and **Judge Dredd Magazine** from 1980 to 2000. Offers to 07714 762989.

For sale: Some 1960s **Uncanny X-Men**, and a set from the 1970s and '80s. Also have **Spider-Man**, **Fantastic Four**, **Thor**, **Avengers** set, **Hulk**, **Captain America**, **Groo** and more. Possible exchange for **Wolverine**, **Spider-Man**, **Fantastic Four** or will buy. Please call Kal on 0121 360 2397 or 07879 651340.

For sale (please sign to state that you are over 18): Hardcore comics **Comics Blues** 1 £1.50, 2 £2; **Lady Lust** #1 £1.50, 2 £2; **Oedipus** 1 £1.50, 2 £2; **Cartoon Porno** 1 £2.50. Adult story mags **Blue Words** 1-2

£2.50. Adult comics **Muck** 1-2 £1.50; **Outlaw Biker Cats** 1 £1.50. Comics **Kez** 1 £1.50; **KLS** 1 £1.50; **Science Fiction** 1 £1.50; **Zulu** £1.95; **M56** 1-2 £1; **The Abnormals** 1-3 £1; **More Than We Seem** 7 £1.95; **Pest Control** 1 £1. Horror story magazine **Gothic** 1 £1.50. Please make all cheques payable to Linkace Media Ltd, Zensieren Publications (ci), BCM Box 1328, London WC1N 3XX. Or order online at [www.fepublications.com](http://www.fepublications.com)

Private collector offering over 20,000 different comics, plus duplicates, 1970s to present. All companies, including high-grade **Daredevil** 11-380. Other commitments means list is sent out April 2003. You can order your copy now. Can you really afford to miss it? Richard Domar, 9 Highlands Road, Wolverhampton WV3 8AH. Tel: 01902 335027 (Wednesday/Thursday 2-7pm).

## Wanted

Advertisers are reminded that *Wanted ads must be no longer than 50 words (including address), and only single insertion private advertisements can be published free of charge.*

Wanted: British original artwork by Frank Bellamy, Mike Noble, Don Lawrence, Gerry Haylock and Ron Turner. Very good prices paid. Also want Neal Adams art, especially his Marvel work. Please telephone Jeff on 01689 898108 or e-mail [jeffrey@haythorpe.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jeffrey@haythorpe.fsnet.co.uk).

Wanted: Warren Heidi Saha poster. E-mail: [piercasimir@mrowczynski.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:piercasimir@mrowczynski.fsnet.co.uk) with details.

Trading cards needed: **Sandman** (oversized) 8, 28, 47, 50, 52, 55; **Vertigo** (oversized) 8, 34, 37, 43, 49, 50, 85; **Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition** 7, 16, 22, 24, 29, 37, 65, 69; **Star Trek DS9** (series one) 16, 90 wp 40p each. Contact Anthony, 20 Grove Rd,

Hoylelake, Wirral CH47 2DT. Tel: 0151 632 4640.

I am desperately looking for the first Batman/Daredevil team-up, which was not sold in the UK. One of the villains was Two-Face, but I'm not sure of the other one. Can anyone help? Does anyone want to sell this to me? Please call Martyn on 0121 680 3047 or e-mail [drwho1966@btopenworld.com](mailto:drwho1966@btopenworld.com) with details.

Wanted: **Jack Staff** by Paul Grist. Any issues. Contact Paul, 31 Wardley Avenue, Worsley, Manchester M28 0HP. Or e-mail [paul\\_kimota@hotmail.com](mailto:paul_kimota@hotmail.com). Tel: 0161 281 9472.

Looking for hard-working, pro-quality artists; some able to draw in Chinese and manga styles. Contact Terry Hooper, 85 Risdale Road, Ashton Vale, Bristol BS3 2RB and please enclose an sae.

Wanted: **Superman**, **Superboy** and **Batman** British annuals from the 1950s and '60s. Also **The Green Hornet**, **Supercar**, **The Avengers**, **The Prisoner**. Gold Key: **H.R. Pufnstuf**, **Bananasplits**, **Fireball XL5**. Any Archie 80-Page Giants. Also want any Bettie Page material. Contact John Balfour, Westerstraat 67-3, Amsterdam, Holland 1015 LW.

Comics wanted: I have £5000 available to buy someone's comics collection. E-mail [giantplanetzero1950xcomics@hotmail.com](mailto:giantplanetzero1950xcomics@hotmail.com) or write c/o 19 Bayfield, Painters Forstall, Kent ME13 0EF with a rough idea of what you're selling. (NB: This is a mailing address only. Do not call round.)

## Announcements

*Fanzine and small press titles must not be offered for sale before being printed. To verify publication, a sample copy must be sent in along with the advertising copy (50 words max). Single bookings only, so everybody gets a chance!*

**From the Tomb** 9, the dark carnival of Fifties horror, Al Feldstein interview, Korean War, decapitation comics, Skywald horror, Stanley Morse magazines. 40 pages - 12 in full colour - for £2.95. Available from Peter Normanton, 619 Whitworth Road, Lower Healey, Rochdale, Lancs OL12 0TB.

Issue six of **Simian Scrolls**, the UK *Planet of the Apes* fanzine now out! Exclusive Carol "Thrud" Critchlow cover and an interview with Ian Edginton. £2 from John Roche, 18 Meyrick Street, Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire, Wales SA72 6UT

**BAM!** is 10 years old! **Bulldog Adventure Magazine** 23: Civil war! Pumpkin-kicking comedy-

drama! In Garen Ewing's *Rainbow Orchid* the mystery deepens! British adventure the like of which only we do! Featured artists include **2000 AD's** P.J. Holden! £2.60 including postage and packing from Jason Cobley, 94 Elm Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2TB

**Operation: Black Jet 1.** A WWII test flight with recovered alien technology leads to a tragic accident and a strange new life for pilot Guy Douglas. New action sci-fi thrills from Underfire Comics. £2 (including p&p) from Underfire Comics, 22 Bristol Rd, Brighton BN2 1AP. E-mail: [mail@underfire.co.uk](mailto:mail@underfire.co.uk).

**CAOF Presents 23** is out now! With stories by the UK's most talented small pressers, including Tony McGee, Marc Olivent and Andrew Bove. For your copy, send a cheque for £1.80, payable to Smallzone, and an A4 sae to CAOF Comics, 10 Cleveland Avenue, High Ercall, Telford, Shropshire TF6 6AH.

Artists wanted for various comics projects. Any artwork style considered. We can supply script ideas to work from if needed. Please send samples of your work to David Fletcher, F&E Comics, c/o 7 Querns Road, Cirencester GL7 1RW.

Airforce and Penny Dreadful visit a dream factory, the Link finds himself up against the Imaginary Bishops, Miriam plays big brother and something nasty happens to Casper... all this and more in **Pest Control** 2. Available for £1 from Grant Springford, 2 Cawston Court, Highland Rd, Bromley BR1 4AF.

## Comic Societies

Join The Eagle Society, dedicated to the memory of Britain's National Strip Cartoon Weekly - The Eagle 1950-1969. For just £17 per year (cheques should be made payable to The Eagle Society) members receive our quarterly journal **Eagle Times**, as well as the chance to attend social gatherings and meet original Eagle contributors. Write to the membership secretary: Keith Howard, 25a Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2UA. Or e-mail: [Richard.Shea@uk.nestle.com](mailto:Richard.Shea@uk.nestle.com)

Comics Creators Guild: The Future of Comics in our Hands. Industry veterans and aspiring professionals. Join the largest comics organisation in Europe. Monthly meetings, newsletter, Comics Forum, exclusive publications, free legal advice, special discounts and more. For further information please contact: Comics Creators Guild, 22 St James Mansions, West End Lane, West Hampstead, London NW6 2AA. [www.comicscreators.org.uk](http://www.comicscreators.org.uk)

## BUY OR SELL OR EVEN TRADE

It's been tried and tested for over 10 years and it's still going strong...

**Comics International's Classified** section has turned more than one £5 "For Sale" advertiser into a big-time full page dealer.

One of the first-read sections of the magazine for both dealers and fans, *Classified* offers you the opportunity to add a part time job to boost your finances.

Most comic fans have unwanted titles taking up valuable space...

... A loft which is in need of clearing.

... A spare room which is no longer spare.

... A garage which is pining for a car.

*Classified* can help you not only clear that space, but earn you money while doing so. More than 4,500 such ads have been placed on this page, with regular dealers coming back each issue.

It costs only £5 to place a 50-word For Sale general announcement. Or £10 for a 100-word list ad, detailing issues and prices. Ads can appear within a week of you sending them...

So, what are you waiting for? Everybody else to jump in first?

... It's down to you!



# Comic & Card Events

Events @ CAMDEN CENTRE  
Bidborough St, London WC1

## COMICBOOK MARKETPLACE

FOR AMERICAN COMICBOOKS  
AND CULT COLLECTABLES

The Comicbook Marketplace is held six times a year at the Camden Centre and is just a few minutes walk from Euston, Kings Cross and St. Pancras stations. There are more than ninety tables with over 1,000,000 comicbooks, magazines and trading cards on sale, including S.F., Fantasy, Film and T.V. related items from Britain's top dealers.

**FUTURE DATE: 4TH MAY 2003**

## CARD MART

FOR SPORTS, NON-SPORTS AND  
COLLECTABLE GAMING CARDS

**FUTURE DATE: 11TH MAY 2003**

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2003

**SUNDAY  
MARCH**

**2**

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2003

**SUNDAY  
MARCH**

**9**

**THE NATION'S  
TOP TRADING  
CARD EVENT**

2003

**SUNDAY  
APRIL**

**6**

2000 AD  
ACTION FIGURES  
ANIME  
BABYLON 5  
BRITISH COMICS  
BUFFY  
COMIC BOOK SUPPLIES  
GAMING CARDS  
GOLDEN AGE COMICS  
LATEST IMPORT COMICS  
NON-SPORTS CARDS  
ORIGINAL ARTWORK  
POKEMON  
SILVER AGE COMICS  
SPORTS CARDS  
SCI-FI/FANTASY  
STAR TREK  
STAR WARS  
TOYS  
TRADING CARD SUPPLIES  
VIDEOS

# Events

A summary of all the events advertised this issue

## February

22/2 **Sheffield:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ..... (p66)

## March

1/3 **Leeds:** The Leeds Comic, Card & Toy Show, with special guests, South Leeds Sports Centre, Beeston Road ..... (p37)  
1/3 **Nottingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p66)  
2/3 **London:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p74)  
8/3 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p66)  
9/3 **Cheshunt:** Sci-Fi & Comic Collectors Fair, Grundy Leisure Centre, Windmill Lane ..... (p55)  
9/3 **Liverpool:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p66)  
9/3 **London:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p74)  
15/3 **Birmingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p66)  
22/3 **Birmingham:** Prophets Film and Memorabilia Fair with special guests, National Motorcycle Museum ..... (p26)  
29/3 **Leeds:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p66)

## April

5-6/4 **Birmingham:** Memorabilia '02, Birmingham NEC ..... (p41)  
6/4 **London:** The National Comicbook Marketplace and Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p74)  
12/4 **Newcastle:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p66)  
19/4 **Nottingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p66)  
24-25/5 **Bristol:** Comic Festival 2003 ..... (p12)  
26/4 **Glasgow:** Scottish Comics, Card & Collectables Fair, James Moir Hall (Mitchell Theatre) Granville Street ..... (p48)  
26/4 **Sheffield:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Main Hall, Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street ..... (p66)  
27/4 **Reading:** Sci-Fi & Comic Collectors Fair, Rivermead Leisure Complex, Richfield Avenue ..... (p55)

## May

3/5 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p66)  
4/5 **London:** Comicbook Marketplace, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p74)  
2-5/5 **Milton Keynes:** Collectormania 3, with special guests, Middleton Hall, Milton Keynes Shopping Centre ..... (p55)  
10/5 **Leeds:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Leeds Metropolitan University, Brunswick Hall, Merrion Way, Leeds ..... (p66)  
11/5 **Cheshunt:** Sci-Fi & Comic Collectors Fair, Grundy Leisure Centre, Windmill Lane ..... (p55)  
11/5 **London:** Card Mart, Camden Centre, Bidborough Street ..... (p74)  
18/5 **London:** The London ABC Show, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square ..... (p57)  
24/5 **Newcastle:** Comic Mart & Card Show, University of Northumbria, Students' Union Ballroom, Sandyford Road ..... (p66)  
31/5 **Birmingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham ..... (p66)

## June

2/6 **Liverpool:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Gladstone Hotel, Lord Nelson Street, Liverpool ..... (p66)  
8/6 **London:** The National Comicbook Marketplace and Card Mart, The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ..... (p74)  
14/6 **Nottingham:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Victoria Leisure Centre, Gedling Street, Nottingham ..... (p66)  
21/6 **Manchester:** Comic Mart & Card Show, Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, Piccadilly, Manchester ..... (p66)





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